

Jordan, S. Africa announce diplomatic ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet Tuesday adopted a decision to establish diplomatic relations between Jordan and South Africa, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. In Pretoria, Foreign Minister Pk Botha also said S. Africa was establishing full diplomatic relations with Jordan, the first Arab country to do so with Pretoria. A brief statement from Mr. Botha said the two countries would set up embassies and exchange ambassadors soon. South Africa has in recent months pursued contact with Arab states and currently has an interest office in Morocco. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Mr. Botha had visited Egypt, Oman, Qatar and Jordan, while the Tunisian deputy foreign minister had recently visited South Africa. The spokesman said the establishment of relations with Jordan was a breakthrough as it was the "first time we would have a full embassy in an Arab country."

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جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

World Bank sets Palestinian needs at \$5.5b

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The World Bank has assessed that \$5.5 billion will be needed over 10 years for the public sector in Israeli-occupied territories, a Palestinian economist said Tuesday. Samir Abdullah, returning from a World Bank meeting in Washington on the economy of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, complained that the amount was "insufficient." In May, the World Bank estimated that the public and private sectors would each need \$3 billion in investments over 10 years. "The World Bank has reevaluated the amount of investments at the request of the Palestinians, particularly after the (autonomy) accord between Israel and the Palestinians," Dr. Abdullah told AFP. "The new figure is not enough because our studies show that we will need \$11.7 billion over seven years to develop the public and private sectors and for construction," Dr. Abdullah said. He said more funds would be needed because of the expected return to the territories of Palestinian refugees who had fled in 1967. Dr. Abdullah said the World Bank had decided to lend the Palestinians \$50 million to be reimbursed over 40 years at an interest rate of 0.75 per cent. It has also offered to train Palestinian bankers (see related story on page 2).

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PFLP, DFLP move towards unity

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Two Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) factions opposed to the autonomy deal with Israel are looking into a possible reunification, a Palestinian official here told AFP Tuesday. Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) will over the next two weeks study formulas for reunification, said Daud Tahami of the DFLP's political bureau. He said the proposal was raised at a meeting Sunday chaired by the leaders of the PFLP and DFLP, George Habash and Nayef Hawatmeh. Mr. Hawatmeh broke away from the PFLP more than 20 years ago to form the DFLP. A member of the central committee of the PLO's main faction, Fateh, Hani Al Hassan, has been in Damascus since Sunday for talks with Palestinian opponents of the peace deal. He met separately with Dr. Hawatmeh and Dr. Nayef Hawatmeh to discuss ways to combat the autonomy deal, Palestinian sources said.

Rabin sees change in PLO conduct

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Tuesday that he had noticed a change in the behaviour of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) since it signed a peace pact with Israel. "We have recognised the PLO, the PLO has changed its path, on paper at least, according to its own obligations but also in the field," Mr. Rabin told reporters during a visit to the Bedouin village of Zarzir in northern Israel. "We have witnessed the first signs of the change of behaviour," the prime minister said. On Sunday, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said the PLO had stopped "all terrorist activity since the signing of the accords." The Palestinian armed group Fateh Hawks has said that the PLO has observed a ceasefire with Israel since Sept. 13.

Israeli left-wing party chief in Tunis

TUNIS (AFP) — Hanan Erez, the head of Israel's left-wing Mapam Party, arrived here Tuesday for talks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on the autonomy accord, officials said. Latif Dori, a Mapam official in charge of Arab affairs, said that Mr. Erez was in Tunis at the invitation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman, Walid Sadek, a Mapam member and Israeli deputy minister of agriculture, was expected to join the delegation later Tuesday, said Mr. Dori. They will discuss with Mr. Arafat means of guaranteeing the success of the Israeli-PLO autonomy accord, Mr. Dori said. Mapam is one of the three components of the left-wing Meretz party, which holds 12 seats in parliament and has four ministers in the coalition government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. A Jewish-Arab party, Mapam has been campaigning for years for peace and supports the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

Kuwait says Iraqis shot at border post

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait said Tuesday Iraqis had fired on one of its border posts and complained to the United Nations about the incident. The official Kuwait News Agency said the "extensive shooting" occurred Monday night and lasted for 20 minutes, "despite Kuwaiti warnings." It did not explain how the warning was conveyed or what kind of weapons were used in the alleged attack on the Umm Sudair outpost. The United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission, which has been patrolling the disputed border since shortly after the end of the 1991 Gulf war, would not confirm the shooting.

Elections to be held as scheduled on Nov. 8

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Parliamentary elections scheduled for Nov. 8 will be held on time, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali announced Tuesday. "There are no extraordinary circumstances that warrant postponing the elections. We are keen on continuing with our democratic process and parliamentary life," Dr. Majali told Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times.

The Prime Minister pointed out, in a telephone interview, that His Majesty King Hussein has confirmed in every statement he made on the elections that there will be no going back from the democratic choice and participation in decision making.

Dr. Majali's announcement came late on Tuesday after senior officials had reportedly confirmed that the government had recommended postponing the polls to King Hussein. Minister of Information Ma'o Abu Nowar, however,

had told the Jordan Times earlier that the Cabinet did not take a decision to recommend the postponement of the polls at its regular Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, as was claimed by news reports.

The polls were widely expected to be delayed after strong hints from King Hussein that such a decision was likely in light of the new demographic and political uncertainties created by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel deal on self-rule for the Palestinians.

"There is a likelihood... of postponement for a limited period until matters clear up a little bit more and we know exactly where we all stand in the interest of the cohesion within the country," the King told foreign reporters Saturday.

Well-informed sources told the Jordan Times Sunday that a decision postponing the polls was expected Tuesday, one day before the deadline for government officials planning to contest the polls to submit

their resignations.

Jordanians appeared divided down the middle on whether the elections should be postponed. Proponents of putting off the polls have feared that the elections would degenerate into a referendum on the PLO-Israel deal. They also said the elections should be postponed until the future of Palestinian displaced persons in Jordan is known — whether they will stay in Jordan or return to the West Bank and become citizens of another political entity.

Officials have said they would not allow Jordanians of Palestinian origin to vote both in parliamentary elections here and elections for a self-rule council in the West Bank and Gaza.

The PLO-Israel accord sets July 1994 as the latest date for holding elections in the occupied territories.

Political parties and figures who have supported holding the polls on the scheduled date have argued that disrupting the democratisation process by de-

laying the elections would have damaged Jordan's image as a model of democracy in the Arab World.

Arguing that democracy should not be halted every time a controversial issue emerged, they said a decision to put off the polls would have disrupted democratic life.

"The King never said the elections would be postponed. His Majesty has been carefully studying the situation and in the end decided the elections should be held on time," Dr. Abu Nowar said.

Analysts believe that the push for postponing the polls gathered considerable momentum when a coalition of political forces promoted it for often differing reasons.

The coalition included politicians opposed to the introduction of the one-man, one-vote formula into the electoral process and deputies who stood to lose from it, opponents of the democratisation process, chauvinist Jordanian groups and politicians who believed that postponing the polls



would best serve the interests of the country. While these groups made a legitimate argument for delaying the polls, their reasoning was outweighed by the

arguments of those who said the elections should be held as scheduled, a political analyst said.

Another important factor that pushed in favour of holding the polls on time was the lack of a viable option for filling the constitutional gap that would have been created by the postponement of the elections, said one former member of Cabinet.

Recalling the previous Parliament would have presented a serious challenge to the government, and forming a consultative council would have been seen as a step back in the democratisation process, an ex-senior official said.

Some political forces have called for a change of government since the possibility of postponing the polls was first considered, with others arguing that the government should not continue to govern without a vote of confidence from Parliament.

Analysts who spoke to the Jordan Times believe that Parliament members, most of

them opposed to the Cabinet and its policies, would have voted the Cabinet down had the Lower House been recalled into session.

This fear of a clash with Parliament, they say, might have been among the major factors that tilted the decision in favour of holding the polls as scheduled. They say the government would have faced strong opposition had the polls been delayed and the Cabinet continued to rule without a vote of confidence.

Regional and international factors might have also played a role in producing the decision to hold the polls on the scheduled date, analysts agree.

They say that the reverberations of what could have been seen as a halt in the democratisation process might have influenced the decision to hold the polls as scheduled. Regional considerations might have also played a role in bringing about what many observers described as reversal from an earlier decision to postpone the polls.

Prince Hassan heads for U.S. with message, will present Jordan's view

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan headed for the United States Tuesday carrying a message to President Bill Clinton from His Majesty King Hussein. He said the visit was part of the close and continued contacts between King Hussein and President Clinton.

An official announcement by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the Crown Prince would also deliver Jordan's address to the 48th session of the U.N. General Assembly in New York.

"The visit would offer a good chance for conveying Jordan's views about different world issues," Prince Hassan said in a departure statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Prince Hassan said his talks would be part of Jordan's political and diplomatic process in the current stage.

He noted that his visit coincides with important events, the meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and opening this week of donors meeting to discuss means of supporting the Middle East peace process and cooperation



among the countries of the region.

Jordan is taking part in the conference of donor nations and is expected to secure pledges for \$3 billion sought by the World Bank to rebuild the Palestinian economy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Clinton administration called for the conference after the signing of Sept. 13 in Washington of an agreement between Israel and the Pales-

tine Liberation Organisation (PLO) which calls for limited self-rule for Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

"We hope that the meetings would give due attention to issues related to regional development and humanitarian and population issues at the regional level," Prince Hassan said.

"It is hoped that questions of development and investment for a peace would not be strictly confined to the occupied lands," he added.

Referring to Jordan's responsibilities and sacrifices, he said that since 1948 the Kingdom had been seeking peace and contributing towards all peaceful policies on condition that peace should be comprehensive and should deal with all humanitarian aspects of peace to this region where Jordan offered so many sacrifices. Prince Hassan, who is accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, was seen off at the airport by members of the royal family and senior officials including Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali as well as the U.S. and British charge d'affaires in Amman.

Peres urges Syria to make peace

Combined agency dispatches

UNITED NATIONS — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Tuesday vowed that Israel would make its agreement with the Palestinians "a permanent success" and extended the olive branch to Syria and other Arab states.

In the past, Arab delegates were conspicuously absent whenever an Israeli leader addressed the General Assembly.

But on Tuesday, in an atmosphere reflecting the new optimism about peace in the Middle East, there was a full house, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) envoy.

Mr. Peres was greeted by polite applause from the dele-

gates, but his speech to the General Assembly was briefly interrupted by two women demonstrators in the visitors' gallery.

The women, apparently Jewish, shouted their opposition to the Israel-PLO accord as a threat to Jews, before being quickly removed by security guards.

Mr. Peres said Israel was "determined to make the agreement with the Palestinians into a permanent success. Israel would consider an economic success of the Palestinians as tough it were its own."

Mr. Peres said Israel was determined to make peace with Syria, and asked if Damascus was ready to reciprocate.

"Yet we must ask the Syrian leadership if it has chosen peace, why does it refuse to meet openly?" he said. "If Syria is aiming at the Egyptian fruits of peace, it must follow the process that led to it," Mr. Peres said. "Both of us have to look ahead and realise that the threats of war are no more than an illusion that one can return to an unbearable past."

Mr. Peres reiterated that Israel has no territorial claims or political ambitions in Lebanon.

"We pray, together with many Lebanese, that their country will no longer be a backyard for troublemakers," Mr. Peres said.

He urged Lebanon to reject Hizbollah, the Iranian-backed

Party of God, and choose genuine sovereignty and a real chance of peace and security.

"Lebanon does not need a licence to regain its independence, and Lebanon should not postpone its return to a balanced policy," Mr. Peres said. Concerning Jordan, which has agreed on an agenda for a peace agreement with Israel, he said both have already agreed on many complicated issues "and there is no doubt we can complete the story fully."

"There is no doubt we can offer the people of both sides of the (Jordan) River full peace. The Dead Sea can become a spring of new life," he said.

(Continued on page 10)

Shevardnadze blasts Russia, pledges to retake Sukhumi

Combined agency dispatches

TBILISI, Georgia — In a heated news conference Tuesday, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze blamed Russia for allowing a key city to be captured by Abkhazian separatists, pledged to retake it and accused rebels of committing atrocities during the city's fall.

Moody's seizure of Sukhumi, a provincial capital, was the Abkhazian fighters' most stunning success in their 13-month battle for independence. Sukhumi's loss could encourage civil wars by ethnic minorities across Georgia and possibly the former Soviet Union.

"My conviction is that the plan for the occupation of Sukhumi has been drawn up in Russian headquarters," the former Soviet foreign minister told reporters in Tbilisi, the Georgia capital after arriving Tuesday.

Mr. Shevardnadze, who had personally led the failed Georgian defence of Sukhumi, had to flee for his life after the city fell.

At the news conference, he said General Mikhail Kolesnikov, the Russian chief-of-staff, had predicted the day that Sukhumi would fall on television. "He only made a mistake

by a few days," Mr. Shevardnadze said.

He accused Abkhazian forces of carrying out atrocities as they took the Black Sea port. "As soon as they entered the city, they executed scores of officials, policemen and ordinary citizens," Mr. Shevardnadze said.

One of the reported victims was Zhuli Shartava, prime minister of the pro-Georgian government in Abkhazia. Georgian intelligence officials say Mr. Shartava was captured during the takeover of Sukhumi and executed.

Mr. Shevardnadze vowed that Georgia would recapture Sukhumi even if it could not be done in his lifetime.

"We must get Sukhumi back," he told the news conference. "If this generation is unable to do so, the next generation will do it anyway."

Mr. Shevardnadze described the rebel capture of the city on Monday, after an 11-day siege, as a great moral and political blow to his Transcaucasian nation.

"Imperial thinking and imperial practices are still alive," Mr. Shevardnadze said. "We are a half-starving country. We have been brought to our knees, but the Georgians will

not kneel any longer."

Meanwhile, Russia accused Abkhazian rebels of violating a ceasefire by seizing Sukhumi but also said it was "perplexed" that Mr. Shevardnadze had blamed his forces' defeat on Moscow.

A foreign ministry statement said Russia viewed the capture of the Black Sea resort with high casualties "with bitterness and incomprehension." It said Moscow had done all it could to separate the two sides and maintain peace in the region.

"The Abkhazian side did not heed Russian demands to stop the movement of troops and immediately launch discussion of measures to restore the ceasefire," said the statement, read at a briefing by spokesman Georgy Karasin.

"Relying on force is not the way of the future. The boomerang of force always comes back."

But Mr. Karasin dismissed Mr. Shevardnadze's suggestion that Russia had failed to take sufficient action to prevent bloodshed in the region.

"The anti-Russian tone of statements by the Georgian leadership, including head of state Eduard Shevardnadze, is perplexing and alarming," it said.

Yeltsin flexes police muscles against rebels

Combined agency dispatches

MOSCOW — Hundreds of armed, helmeted riot police surrounded the Russian parliament Tuesday as the government gave hardliners boled up inside an ultimatum to end their occupation.

Senior police officers used loudspeakers to broadcast the order to surrender in 24 hours as President Boris Yeltsin's government mounted its highest show of force yet against hardliners who have occupied parliament for a week. The ultimatum expires around 0800 GMT Wednesday.

Dozens of guards and volunteers inside the parliament complex piled rocks and manned barricades as commanders barked orders. Russian Orthodox priests in flowing black robes blessed the defenders with crosses.

"Motherland or death," the parliament supporters chanted.

Some of those inside the parliament used loudspeakers to urge police to defect, but their appeals were ignored. Both sides watched each other warily in pouring rain.

At least 2,000 riot police were deployed around the building, stopping anyone from entering but allowing people already inside to leave if they wished. Police used trucks and barbed wire to block roads leading to parliament.

It was not clear if the massive show of force would lead to violence or if the government was stepping up the psychological war of nerves with the hardliners inside the parliament.

Police commanders at parliament told reporters they might storm the building if the defenders did not surrender their weapons. First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir

Shumeiko said the government wanted the building cleared. "No one needs this hotbed of tension," he said.

But Mr. Yeltsin's press spokesman, Vyacheslav Kostikov, said the government had no plans to attack the parliament building.

Parliamentary Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov vowed to keep up his defiance of Yeltsin's order to disband.

"They want to turn us into something of a closed concentration camp," Mr. Khasbulatov said in an interview broadcast on the U.S. television network CNN from inside the parliament.

The increased security underlined Mr. Yeltsin's resolve to end the week-long stand-off as support from Russian regions for his Sept. 21 decree dissolving parliament and calling new elections continued to waver.

Mr. Khasbulatov said he and his followers could keep up their opposition to the presidential decree for another six weeks even though the parliament building has been deprived of water, electricity and telephone communication.

Israel to start pullout Dec. 1; Arafat due Jan. 1

Combined agency dispatches

JERICO — occupied West Bank — Israeli troops will start withdrawing from Jericho and the Gaza Strip on Dec. 13, and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat will arrive on Jan. 1, a Palestinian negotiator said Tuesday.

"We have a well defined time frame with a thousand things to do," negotiator Sach Erekat said of the four-month deadline to begin implementing the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO agreement.

The accord signed in Washington grants limited self-rule to Palestinians in parts of the occupied territories, Gaza and Jericho, with a view to widening the arrangement and later negotiating a broader peace settlement.

The PLO has already rented a hotel in Jericho for a headquarters and would also take over a large building currently

used by the Israeli military government, Dr. Erekat said. He was interviewed by the Associated Press in his Jericho home the day before he was to leave for Tunis with six other negotiators to discuss the transition to autonomy.

Two new Palestinian negotiating teams were expected to be chosen during the meetings with Mr. Arafat, replacing the current delegation that has conducted peace talks in Washington, Palestinian negotiators said.

One group will negotiate the extent and timing of Israel's planned withdrawal from Jericho and Gaza. The other will deal with the authorities being assumed by Palestinians over areas such as education, health, social welfare, direct taxes and tourism.

Israel and the Palestinians had not agreed on many details for implementing the

(Continued on page 3)

Marriot Jr. visits Jordan

AMMAN — Marriott Jr., chairman and president of the board of Marriott Corporation worldwide, accompanied by his wife, Karl Killburgh, regional vice-president Europe, Middle East and Africa, and Harry Boschaart, vice-president Middle East, arrived in Amman yesterday as part of a European and Middle Eastern tour which includes Athens, Amman, Jeddah and Riyadh.

Mr. Marriott was greeted by Richard Lyon, general manager of the Amman Marriott Hotel, and other members of the executive committee.

Mr. Marriott will be holding a press conference on



Wednesday Sept. 29 at the Amman Marriott Hotel.

World bank hopes to be major lender in Mideast

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The World Bank hopes to be a major lender to spur development in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank, the bank's managing director, Lewis Preston, said Monday.

Mr. Preston would not say how much the bank would lend to the area, but said the bank wanted to be a significant lender and planned to send a mission there in about 10 days.

Meanwhile at the United Nations in New York, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said they were examining the issue of economic aid to help the Middle East peace process.

One option might be to have a multilateral task force on economic development to the peace process oversee the aid distribution, Mr. Juppe said.

The task force could be backed with a group of experts and help from the World Bank and European Investment Bank, he said.

Aid to help the peace process is expected to be discussed Tuesday by European Community (EC) foreign ministers and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Washington, Mr. Juppe said.

Mr. Preston said there were "technical obstacles" to such lending because "they are not yet members of the Bretton Woods institutions," referring to the meeting that established the post-World War II monetary system. But he said he was confident "this can be overcome."

Mr. Preston was speaking after a day-long meeting of the joint development committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

In its final statement, the 24-nation ministerial committee welcomed the contribution made by the bank to the Middle East peace process "in preparing the ground for a coordinated programme of financial support for Gaza and the West Bank."

Norway's prime minister said at the United Nations on Monday that international economic aid is vital to ensure that the Israel-PLO agreement can be built on to ensure lasting peace.

"We would fail abysmally in our duties should we falter now in our efforts to support the process of prying peace out of the knot of conflict," Gro Harlem Brundtland told the U.N. General Assembly.

Norway acted as mediator in

secret talks which culminated in a breakthrough agreement earlier this month on Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories.

But "now we must answer to the clarion call and mobilise our collective political and financial resources to help move the peace process forward," Mr. Brundtland said.

Israeli view

The West Bank and Gaza need critical funds and the international community should assemble \$50 million to \$100 million in the next few months to get the rebuilding effort under way, a senior Israeli official said.

Israel and the Palestinians will shortly begin talks to forge the economic foundation to their political agreement but Jacob Frenkel, governor of the central bank of Israel, said that help for the territories is badly needed in the short term.

"From \$50 million to \$100 million will need to be channelled within the next few months," Mr. Frenkel told Reuters in an interview.

Formerly director of research at the IMF, Mr. Frenkel was in Washington to attend the annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank, which begin on Tuesday.

He said the talks between Israel and the Palestinians were crucial and will establish the economic framework for Gaza and the West Bank for the next five years.

"It is my belief that the economic uplifting cannot take place without continuing a strong economic relationship between Israel and the territories," Mr. Frenkel said.

The agreement has focused an economic searchlight on the Mideast, as foreign investors seek ways to benefit from the accord and governments disclose new economic commitments to the region.

"In general the entire region stands to benefit significantly from the peace process," Mr. Frenkel said. "What we know is investment in general and foreign investment in particular are very sensitive to the political climate."

He said there had already been extraordinary foreign interest and "I have no doubt that this improved geopolitical picture will fundamentally change the interest of world investors."

At the same time, he urged governments that have made commitments to finance rebuilding the territories to keep

their word. "We have seen in the past that there was some slippage from one stage to the next," Mr. Frenkel said.

Mr. Frenkel said the upcoming negotiations would centre on labour movements, trade relations, taxation and administration, monetary and banking supervision.

Although the outline will emerge from the talks, he said he expected significant numbers of Palestinians to work in Israel and for trade between the areas to occur with a minimum of interference.

Asked whether the territories should print their own currency, he said that this would not be a good idea at this stage in their development. "It is very important to have a stable and well functioning monetary system if you want to encourage investment," he said.

As far as Israel is concerned, he said the country would have to be very sensitive to inflationary pressures as investment begins flowing to the region.

The country has mounted a campaign to bring inflation down to what he called "western levels," and Mr. Frenkel said this effort would continue and should be successful.

"So while I recognise the danger, I don't think it is a law of nature that accelerated economic activity must generate inflation," he said.

PLO to send five-man team to aid conference

The PLO will dispatch a five-man team to Washington next month to attend the international conference to gather funds for Palestinian autonomy, Palestinian officials said Tuesday.

The team will be led by Yasser Abed Rabbo, a member of the PLO's decision-making Executive Committee.

He will be accompanied by Nabil Shaath, an advisor to Chairman Yasser Arafat, economist Youssef Sayegh, peace negotiator Samir Abdulrahman and the organisation's representative in Canada, Hassan Abdul Rahman.

The United States has officially invited the PLO to attend the meeting which it is sponsoring.

The invitation was handed last week to Mahmud Abbas, who signed the PLO-Israel autonomy accord at the White House of Sept. 13, by U.S. ambassador to Tunisia John McCarthy.



NEW DOORS: Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres (left) speaks with African National Congress (ANC) President Nelson Mandela Monday during a courtesy call. Mr. Peres addressed the U.N. General Assembly Tuesday. During the meeting Mr. Mandela offered his congratulations on the recent Israel-PLO autonomy accord (AFP)

Kenyan police commit rape, other crimes against Somali refugees

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Thousands of Somali refugees have been raped, robbed or killed in Kenyan camps — many at the hands of government security forces — and the United Nations has not done enough to prevent it, a human rights group says.

"The sufferings of these refugees are the forgotten part of the Somali tragedy," the London-based African Rights group said in a report for release Tuesday. "While the Kenyan government is ultimately responsible for these abuses, the United Nations high commissioner for refugees has also failed to ensure the protection of the refugees."

The 54-page report highlights what has become a much-discussed problem in the violent, sparsely populated northeast sector of Kenya over the last year. Bandits roam the countryside robbing, killing and hijacking relief convoys and private cars.

They also attack refugee camps, stealing, beating and killing people and raping women. About 340,000 Somali refugees live in camps in Kenya, the vast majority in the northeast sector.

Previous reports from victims and international observers also have charged Kenyan security forces with committing some of the crimes.

But the U.N. refugee agency's spokesman in Nairobi, Panos Mountzias, said Monday that African Rights' report exaggerates the problem, uses inflated statistics and is not

well-balanced.

For instance, Tuesday's report says thousands of women have been raped at the camps, most by bandits but many by Kenyan police or soldiers. Mr. Mountzias said that although only 200 cases have been reported, the United Nations believes as many as 2,000 women have been raped — seven of those by Kenyan security men.

The report says dozens of male refugees have been killed by security forces, while Mr. Mountzias says it is "a few."

The report says no police or army officer has been charged in the cases. Mr. Mountzias says cases have not been publicly prosecuted but have been taken to military court, where in one instance a 30-man police unit was transferred out of the area and new personnel brought in.

The report recommends that Kenya's government prosecute security men who have committed crimes against refugees, set up a special protection unit for refugees, increase security at camps and stop forced repatriations.

It recommends that the United Nations create a special office to hear refugee complaints, look into ways of giving women special protection and take legal action against Kenya's security men suspected in crimes against refugees.

Mr. Mountzias acknowledged that a U.N. programme for rape victims has suffered

from lack of interest and funding by nations asked to donate to it. After receiving poor response earlier this year for a proposed \$2 million victim assistance programme, U.N. officials have decided to reduce their request by half and make a special appeal beginning Friday for \$1 million to pay for gynecologists, lawyers and other services for the women.

African Rights is a small, newly organised group that broke away several months ago from the larger and more established African Watch, which also is expected to release a report on conditions at the camps soon.

The report said: "There is an epidemic of rape in the refugee camps. In the five nights spent by (group co-director) Alex de Waal in three camps, 22 women reported having been raped. Most were gang rapes and often the women were severely beaten as well."

"Contrary to Kenyan government claims, policemen are responsible for many of these rapes."

It quoted a Somali rape victim, a 21-year-old mother it did not name, as saying: "Every time the police raped me they got a cloth and rubbed my body before the rape. They were using the cloth to wipe the blood and the harsh material was scratching my body."

Africa Rights said that the 330,000 Somali refugees in Kenya were the forgotten part of Somalia's tragedy.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Peres: Arafat made last-minute threat

NEW YORK (AP) — Minutes before he was to sign the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace agreement, Yasser Arafat threatened to go home unless the Israelis changed the accord's wording, Israel's foreign minister said Monday. Shimon Peres said that an emissary from the PLO leader came to him and made the demand on Sept. 13, just 30 minutes before the White House signing ceremony. Mr. Arafat wanted the agreement to refer to the Palestinian delegation as the PLO instead of the "Palestinian team." Israel had until recently refused to negotiate with the PLO. A joke helped turn things around, Mr. Peres said on CNN's Larry King live talk show. "I said 'tell us what time Arafat is going back home, because we would like to buy some gifts for our children before we ... leave,'" the Israeli said, adding that he delivered the line "with a smile." "At the last moment we worked out a compromise," Mr. Peres said, without elaborating. Mr. Peres said he then agreed to pen in the change, but that the Palestinians insisted it be typed in. "Well, we typed it down and we signed," Mr. Peres said. After the behind-the-scenes showdown, the signing ceremony conducted by President Bill Clinton went smoothly.

Kach threatens to attack Palestinian policemen

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The anti-Arab Kach movement vowed Monday to kill Palestinian policemen, claiming Muslim fundamentalists are infiltrating their ranks to obtain weapons and attack Jews. "We don't know who these Palestinian police will really represent," said Noam Federman, a Kach leader. "In our eyes they are all terrorists." He told the Associated Press that Kach activists have been instructed to attack Palestinian policemen. Many Kach members live in the occupied West Bank and they are generally armed. "If there is a need we will kill them," Mr. Federman added. Israel Radio broadcast Kach's threat after reports that Hamas activists planned to sneak into the Palestinian police force. Over 24,000 Palestinians have registered for training in a Palestinian police force that is to be deployed in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank in accordance with the Israel-Palestine autonomy agreement.

'Libya should give league seat to Israel'

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libya should give up its seat in the Arab League in favour of Israel following the signing in Washington of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel accord on limited Palestinian autonomy, a Libyan daily said on Monday. "Ever since an Arab hand warmly shook an Israeli hand ... the Arabs have closed ranks to bring down the walls which surround Israel," Al Shams said in a commentary mocking the Arab-Israeli rapprochement. PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin sealed the signing of the accord with a handshake at a White House ceremony on Sept. 13. Al Shams said the Arabs were also united in supporting U.N. sanctions imposed on Libya last year, over its failure to cooperate in investigations into plane bombings. As a result, the newspaper said, the Libyans "who have long fought for Arab unity must make a sacrifice so that the Arabs can reap the fruits of their reunion with the dear (Jewish) cousin." Libya must give up its seat in the Arab League and give it to the Jewish state, the paper said.

Militant leader among 8 killed in Algeria

ALGIERS (AP) — An Islamic militant leader sought by police for nearly two years was among eight people killed in political violence over the weekend, security forces reported late Monday. Authorities said Houmei Mohammad Azezi, believed to be an associate of the jailed leaders of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front, was shot dead by security forces Saturday in a forest near Tizi Ouzou, about 100 kilometres east of Algiers. Four other Islamic fundamentalists reportedly were killed by security forces Sunday in Ouled Aissa, near Algiers. In three separate attacks Saturday in different parts of the country, two police officers and a civilian were killed by unidentified gunmen, security forces said. More than 2,000 people have died since the government cancelled elections in January 1992 that the fundamentalists were expected to win. Military commanders launched a crackdown on the fundamentalists, which triggered a backlash of assassinations and bombings. Authorities said Mr. Azezi was suspected of commanding some of the militants who have carried out repeated attacks on security forces and prominent Algerians.

B.A. refuses to fly high-risk Rushdie

LONDON (AFP) — British Airways, which bills itself "the world's favourite airline," refuses to carry British author Salman Rushdie, who has been in hiding since 1989, Mr. Rushdie told the Guardian newspaper Tuesday. The author was sentenced to death in 1989 by Iran's late spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini after his controversial novel "The Satanic Verses" was judged by Muslims to be blasphemous. "This has been going on for two years. They have gambled that I would not make it public, but now you have a situation where an innocent citizen is being denied passage by his country's national airline," he told the paper. Mr. Rushdie said the British government had on three occasions asked B.A. to change its policy and the airline had refused each time. B.A. said it had decided after "very careful consideration" that it was simply too dangerous to carry him. "While we have every sympathy with Mr. Rushdie's difficulties with overseas travel, our ultimate responsibility is the safety and security of our customers and our staff," said a spokesman. The paper said Mr. Rushdie was regarded by special branch police as the person in Britain most at risk by virtue of having been threatened by foreign governments rather than terrorist organisations. "There is a system of assessing levels of threat and there are a number of people on the same level as I am. Are there any other people who B.A. refuses to carry?" Mr. Rushdie asked. The author, who last week won the prestigious Booker Prize for his novel "Midnight's Children," accused the airline of being the "fellow travellers of Iran by enforcing the fatwa (religious decree)."

Golan settlers — some plan to move out, others dig in

By Ron Kampeas
The Associated Press

KATZRIN, Occupied Golan Heights — Nona Sadot left a career as an accountant to open a perfumery called "Dreams" in this Golan Heights town.

Now, like many of the 12,000 Jewish settlers in the Golan, she sees the return of the territory to Syria as inevitable, and plans to abandon the scent of "Dreams" to move back to Israel.

Few settlers disagreed that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was moving closer to compromise with Syria after his agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) earlier this month.

But some were digging in. "I won't move," said housewife Ramona Bar-Lev.

The 1,440-square kilometres territory, seized

from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war, was once considered sacrosanct to Israelis. They saw the Heights' vantage, used by the Syrians to shell Israel's northern towns prior to 1967, as crucial to security.

Countless memorials to fallen soldiers in the 1967 and 1973 wars dot the landscape, giving the Golan a deep emotional resonance for Israelis. It is also home to 12,000 Druze, the remnants of the 100,000 Syrians who lived in the Golan Heights before 1967.

Ms. Sadot, 35, is concerned more for future generations that past and is ready to move.

"Peace is worth anything. I have two young sons, 9 and 11," she said, their future compulsory military service understood. "I don't want to be a mourning mother."

The 1991 Gulf war, during which Iraq shelled central Israel with nearly 40 Scud missiles, convinced many Israelis that, with modern weapons systems, territory was not the buffer it once was.

Some already are lobbying for favourable terms of departure — such as government compensation.

"The best evacuation possible" is the slogan for garage owner Shmuel Nahmani's single-issue campaign for local council elections on Nov. 2. "If we have to go, we have to go," he said.

Udi Margalit, of the committee of Golan Settlements, is not ready to accept a deal with Syria. "They want it all," he said.

Golan settlers, unlike their counterparts in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, are

for the most part not passionate ideologues. Mr. Rabin was the top vote-getter in the Golan, and even hardliners such as Mr. Margalit say their claim to the land is not based on the Bible.

"This is not part of the Biblical land of Israel," said Mr. Margalit, an accountant who set up house in Katzrin as soon as the town was established in 1977.

Mr. Margalit, who spends his free time raising money for the 33 Golan Settlements, describes his fight as "existential," protecting the quiet lifestyle he cherishes. He lost his leg fighting in the Golan Heights in the 1973 war and he cites the freedom his children enjoy running through the streets at night.

Across the street from Mr. Margalit's own home, a row of new houses stands empty. A push by settlers to sell

property on the Golan was made last year after Mr. Rabin expressed willingness to make "concessions" to the Syrians last year, but it went nowhere.

Mr. Rabin's government has said it will halt new investment in the Golan, formerly a priority area.

But Uri Meir, the director of the Golan Development Company, is not put off. Private investors still get priority tax breaks, like a 10-year tax deferral, or grants of up to 38 per cent of the investment, he said.

So what does he see as the outcome that is so encouraging? Israeli settlers could be allowed to stay as part of a settlement.

"The Golan could be a free-trade zone, a nice little canton on the way to Damascus," he predicted.

Many of the Druze, who

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 La Chaine
19:00 News in French
19:15 News in Hebrew
19:30 News in Arabic
20:00 Head of the Clinic
20:30 Documentary — Notre Steele
21:00 News in English
22:00 Ashdoden

PRAYER TIMES

15:00 Fajr
17:25 (Sunrise) Duha
17:26 Dhuhur
18:51 Asr
19:20 Maghrib
19:30 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh, Tel. 510741
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 612725
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624591
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637481
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terreconsorta Church Tel. 622306
Church of the Annunciation Tel.

WEATHER

Relative weather conditions will prevail and winds will be northwesterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly active and seas calm.

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 16 / 25
Aqaba 22 / 26
Djeris 13 / 32
Jordan Valley 21 / 36
Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 25, Aqaba 34 Humidity readings:

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Amman 21 per cent, Aqaba 22 per cent.

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Hisham Karan 780276
Dr. Walid Al Masri 675485
Dr. Sa'ad Al Masri 788285
Dr. Mohammad Shugair 626693
First pharmacy 783336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairokhi pharmacy 626372
Al Salame pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649445
Shamsan pharmacy 637660
Nairokhi pharmacy 626372
Najib pharmacy 847632
IBRD:
Dr. Ahmad Qanu (-)
Al Quds pharmacy (-)
ZARQA:
Dr. Farid Hamdan 987725
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Police Security Department 695830
Hotel Complaints 661648
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 121
Overseas Calls 610230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Reprints 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 681100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636384
Company 636384
RJ Flight Information 08-532300
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-532300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/22
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Al-Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642262
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmoulan 6611714
Shmoulan Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muhsen Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 66612737
Italian, Al-Muhajir 6611714
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 771012
Army, Smarka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 6224030
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990
IBRD:
Phosco Basmu Hospital (02)225555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272725
Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital (02)271001
AQABA:
Princess Naya Hospital (03)314111

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08)532005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 Jeddah (RJ)
10:10 Istanbul (RJ)
10:30 Larnaca (RJ)
10:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:00 London (RJ)
11:25 Frankfurt (RJ)
11:50 Amsterdam (RJ)
12:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
13:00 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
13:10 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
13:40 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
15:00 Rome (RJ)
23:00 Amsterdam (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
05:45 Beirut, Paris (AF)
07:00 Rome (AZ)
08:00 Beirut (ME)
08:45 Dubai (EM)
12:30 Sana'a (YV)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
10:30 Rome (RJ)
11:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:30 Berlin, London (RJ)
11:50 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:00 Amsterdam (RJ)
12:30 Istanbul (RJ)
12:50 Colombo (RJ)
13:00 Agaba, Cairo (RJ)
13:10 Sana'a (RJ)
13:40 Dhahran (RJ)
14:10 New Delhi (RJ)
14:30 Addis (RJ)
15:00 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
22:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
06:45 Riyadh (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
05:45 Beirut, Paris (AF)
07:00 Rome (AZ)
08:00 Beirut (ME)
08:45 Dubai (EM)
12:30 Sana'a (YV)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 750/650
Banana 600
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Beans 750 / 650
Cabbage 130 / 70
Carrot 400/300
Cauliflower 280 / 200
Cucumbers (large) 160 / 80
Cucumbers (small) 320 / 230
Eggplant 280 / 200
Fig 300 / 250
Garlic 250 / 170
Grapes 300/200
Guava 600 / 450
Lemon 240 / 180
Marrow (large) 300 / 180
Marrow (small) 420 / 320
Mushrooms 220 / 120
Okra 1000/900
Onion (dry) 250 / 180
Pepper (hot) 300 / 180
Pepper (mild) 250 / 180
Potato 450 / 350
Tomato 120 / 90
Sweet melon 250/180
Watermelon 220/160

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Activists and professional hail upgrade of public sector health benefits for women

AMMAN (Petra) — A government decision last month to include the children of female government employees in the health insurance system was hailed Tuesday by women's unions and medical and social sectors in Jordan.

"This is a positive step leading hopefully towards granting women in Jordan equal rights in various walks of life," commented Njud Fawzi, head of the Federation of Women's Unions in the Amman governorate.

"The government has finally

served justice to women who have suffered for a long time because of the lack of proper legislations equating them with men," added Mrs. Fawzi.

She added, that the step was a fruit of the women's long struggle to attain their rights in Jordan.

Under the new regulations, a married female government employee is now entitled to include her children under 18 years-old and her husband, if he is incapacitated or unable to provide for the medical care of

his family, in the government-sponsored health insurance plan.

The previous regulations gave women employees the right to the health service, but excluded their family members, unlike the regulations for male employees.

Describing the government decision as providing an incentive for women to pursue their work more diligently, Mrs. Fawzi said that many employees quit their civil service jobs to seek employment else

where because they had been deprived of health service for their children which are often costly for a limited income family.

Thanking the government for its move Mrs. Fawzi expressed hope that the amendment to the health system would lead to other measures towards equality between men and women under the climate of democracy.

Tawfiq Loubani, head of the Health Ministry's Health Insurance Department, said the amendment was a very positive

move because it will reduce the financial burdens of the employees' families.

Zuheir Abu Faris, a private specialist expressed hope that the government's decision would lead towards the long aspired comprehensive health scheme covering all Jordanians.

Dr. Abu Faris called for a general conference in which women and other social and medical sectors would participate to discuss the question of national comprehensive health scheme.

Royal Decree endorses by-law regulating Cabinet

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree issued Tuesday endorsed a by-law that regulates Cabinet meetings.

The regulation will become effective Oct. 2 when it will be published in the official gazette.

Under the by-law, the cabinet will carry out all the duties assigned to it in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and laws and regulations in effect in Jordan.

It states that cabinet meetings require that two-thirds of the cabinet members be present including the Prime Minister or his deputy or any member whom he assigns to act for him in his absence in order to form a quorum.

Cabinet decisions require a majority vote of the members present. In cases where the votes are equal, the prime minister will cast the deciding

vote. Article 4 of the by-law grants the cabinet the right to form specialised ministerial councils from among its members and to define the by-laws and duties of such councils.

Meetings of these councils, formed under Article 4, require attendance by two-thirds of their members including the council chairman or his designate in his absence, in order to form a quorum.

The council decisions require an absolute majority vote, provided that they are submitted to the cabinet for endorsement.

Article 5 of the by-law entitles the cabinet to delegate any of the authorities entrusted to it in accordance with the rules and regulations of law, to the prime minister or any of his deputies or other cabinet minister.

Climate, politics and economics can hurt farming — minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Apart from numerous obstacles that impede the development of agriculture in Jordan the farming sector is adversely affected by climatic political and internal economic changes and developments, according to Minister of Agriculture Marwan Kamal.

Of the 7.14 million dunums of cultivable land in the Kingdom, only 2.5 million are being utilised to produce food, said the minister in an address at the opening of a three-day agricultural festival held at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman.

Most of the cultivated land depends on fluctuating amounts of rain water, said Dr. Kamal, adding that insufficiency of this resource as well as farming equipment constitute the main reasons for poor food production.



Marwan Kamal
He said surface and underground water used in irrigation is the subject of intense competition. In some cases, Dr. Kamal explained, over-pumping of underground water for irrigation has resulted in saline water. He said obstacles impeding

production include increasing dependence on guest workers, weak agricultural extension services, poor marketing systems, lack of agricultural roads in some parts, costly imported farming inputs and poor quality crops that cannot compete with the produce of other countries in foreign markets.

Dr. Kamal said that the government's role should be restricted to drawing up agricultural policies and providing the infrastructure for projects which should be implemented by the private sector.

The minister opened an agricultural book exhibition as part of the festival, which was organised in cooperation with Jordanian universities and several government departments and the private sector, as well as the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO).

RJ runs charter flights between London, Aqaba

AMMAN (J.T.) — A programme to transport groups of tourists, mainly from the United Kingdom, directly to Aqaba from London aboard Royal Jordanian (RJ) flights began recently and will continue through the end of May 1994, according to sources at RJ and International Traders, a local tourist and travel agency which organised the programme.

The sources said that the first group totalling 165 British and other European tourists are currently visiting the southern parts of the country after arriving in the port city Sunday evening.

Each week, between 150 and 165 tourists will arrive in Aqaba on chartered RJ planes on direct flights from London, said a spokesperson for International Traders.

According to the contract with a British tour operator helping to implement the programme, the tourists will speed eight days in the Kingdom, touring the main attractions like Petra, the Dead Sea, Jerash, Amman and Madaba.

In past years, RJ used to bring Finnish tourists directly from Helsinki to Aqaba, but according to an RJ sources the programme was discontinued. He gave no further details.

Meanwhile, RJ Monday evening hosted a dinner in honour of the 400 Dutch tour operators who concluded their three-day annual conference in Amman and 100 representatives of local tourist and travel agencies and the press. The banquet, held near Hercules Temple on the ancient citadel in Amman was attended by Minister of Tourism Yusef Hilani and Transport Minister Salman Al Tarawneh.

RJ Chief Executive Officer Mahmood Jamal Balqez outlined to the guests the historic importance of the archaeological site, noting that Jordan

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Royal Jordanian Chief Executive Officer Mahmood Jamal Balqez (centre) Monday evening chatted with an ANVR (a Dutch tour operators association) official at a banquet at the Hercules Temple in Amman.

RJ, which helped arrange for the conference, the group's first in an Arab city, prepared a full programme for the delegates to visit numerous areas of interest in Jordan.

19 Bosnians return home after medical treatment

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of 19 Bosnian Muslims who received medical treatment at Jordanian hospitals left Amman for home Tuesday, and arrangements are being made for another group to come, according to Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, minister of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs.

A group of 21 war injured Bosnians arrived here last June and have been undergoing treatment; 19 of them were well enough to return to their homeland, said Dr. Abbadi, who is also executive director of the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO) which is taking care of Bosnian refugees in Jordan.

The organisation earlier this year brought more than 400 Bosnian Muslim families to the Kingdom and provided accommodations for them at a centre in Amman.

Dr. Abbadi said that 21 wounded Bosnians were not among the 400 families brought to Jordan, adding that the group of wounded were brought to receive treatment only.

Arrangements have been made in coordination with Bosnian government officials and international organisations to bring a group of 15 wounded and sick Bosnian children to be cared for in Jordan, Dr. Abbadi announced.

Meanwhile, Mousa Mustafa Al Zughoul, head of a committee at the Jordanian Medical Association charged with caring for the Bosnian refugees, said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the 21 wounded Bosnians received treatment at several hospitals, including Al Bashir, Jordan University Hospital and private sector hospitals.

Cabinet appoints new NRA chief

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Tuesday appointed Fakhri Daghestani as director general of the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) as of the date of his assumption of his duties.



EMERGENCY EXERCISES: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Tuesday stages a rescue exercise at Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA). The drill involved rescuing passengers from a plane which sustained an imaginary accident on the tarmac at QAIA. According to Fawwaz Askar, assistant airport director for operations, the exercise was needed to prove the extent of readiness of the various concerned authorities to provide help and rescue under actual situations of emergency. The Civil Defence Department (CDD), the Health Ministry, the Royal Medical Services, and the Public Security Department (PSD) were involved in the mock exercise in which ambulance and fire engines were used to evacuate the injured passengers. An army helicopter was also used in the operations (Petra photo)



MEETING LIBYAN ENVOY: His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday receives the Libyan representative to the Arab League, Ibrahim Al Bishari, who conveyed to the King a verbal message from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. Mr. Bishari raised the outstanding role played by King Hussein in

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Queen Noor to start off charity march 64,651 apply for civil service jobs

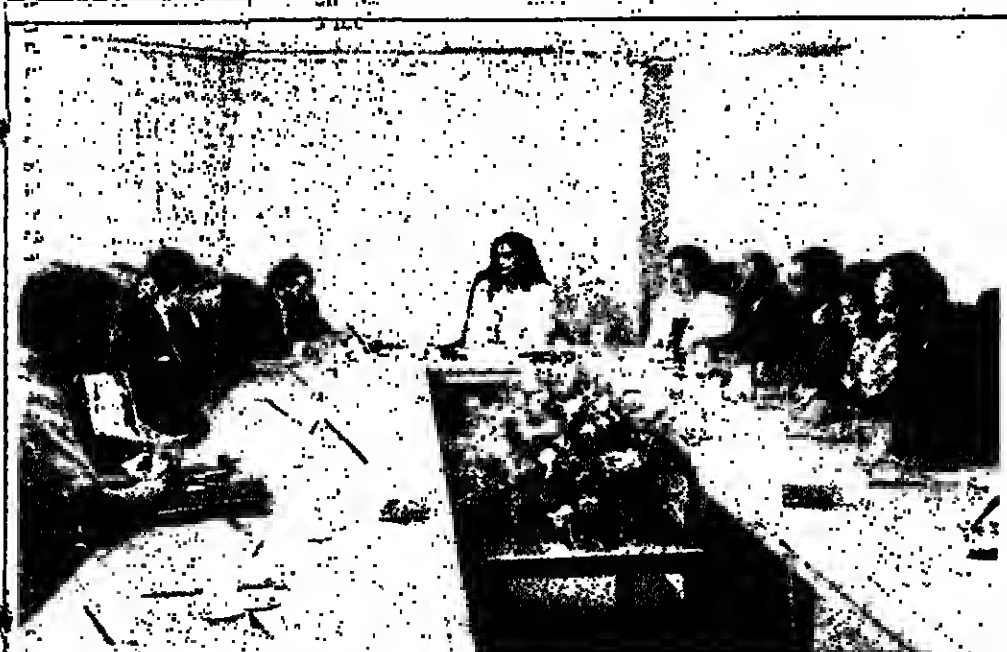
AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday will give the start sign for a march called "Al Noor and Hope March," which will start from the Orthodox Church and end at the Marriott Hotel. The march is aimed at raising funds for the Regional Centre of the Rehabilitation of Blind Women. Following the march, participants will attend an evocative event at the Palace of Culture. Taking part in the event will be several Jordanian artists and the Ma'an Folklore Troupe.

AMMAN (Petra) — The number of job seekers who applied to the Civil Service Commission (CSC) as of the end of July was 64,651; 61 per cent were women applicants. Applicants who were appointed to government posts numbered 2,954 as of the end of the same month, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the CSC.

Expert says typhoid cases in Ajloun

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Jordan Paediatric Association (JPA) Abdul Karim Al Qudah Monday said that typhoid cases in Ajloun area have receded and that the situation there is under control. Speaking during a lecture held in Amman, Dr. Qudah said that typhoid cases reported in the Ajloun area did not exceed 300 and that they were all treated. Dr. Qudah said 70 per cent of the cases occurred in children attending basic schools and he stressed the need for focusing on schools and maintaining tight control over sanitary and hygienic situation there.

AMMAN (Petra) — Interior Minister Salameh Hammad Tuesday received Deputy Yemeni Interior Minister Col. Hassi Hussein Ali, who delivered to Mr. Hammad a message from his Yemeni counterpart dealing with the brotherly bilateral relations. Mr. Hammad stressed the ministry's interest in enhancing cooperation between the interior ministries of both countries. The meeting was attended by the ministry's Secretary General Khalid Khreisat and the Yemeni Charge d'Affaires in Amman.



PROMOTING EXPORTS: Her Royal Highness Princess Rania Abdullah Tuesday called at the Jordan Trade Centre and Export Promotion Corporation where she was briefed by the corporation's director general, Mohammad Bani Hani on its objectives, activities and role in promoting national exports. Princess Rania stressed the importance of providing the necessary information to exporters in order to help support national products (Petra photo)

Israel to start pullout Dec. 1

(Continued from page 1)

accord.

One key issue is the size of the Jericho area Israeli troops would vacate. Dr. Erekat said, "The PLO will demand control of the entire Jericho district, about 387 square kilometres in size, he said."

Israel was keenly to want to retain control of at least a part of this area, particularly areas where 17 Jewish settlements are located.

Other "security" arrangements, including protection for the 18 Jewish settlements in Gaza, also had to be negotiated, Dr. Erekat said. "We have taken small step on a road that 100 kilometres long, and very difficult work lies ahead of us."

Ghassan Khatib, another negotiator going to Tunis, said another subject being discussed

sed in Tunis is who operates the autonomy governing authorities until elections are held.

Israel has said it hopes that elections for the autonomy governing councils will be held by May.

In addition, Dr. Khatib said Palestinians in the occupied territories also would seek to increase their representation on PLO bodies based in Tunis.

The Israeli army has already outlined dates for the transfer of power and withdrawal of forces for the Palestinian autonomous areas in the occupied territories, according to Tuesday's Haaretz newspaper.

With the plan due to start on Oct. 13, Israel's military administration will transfer limited power to the Palestinian authority during the month, the

daily said.

The Palestinians will take control of education, culture, health, tourism, taxation and social affairs in October which will also see the setting up of a Palestinian police force.

In November, the army will publish details of the planned military withdrawal from Jericho and redeployment in the rest of the West Bank.

December will see the publication of an agreement to be reached between Israel and the Palestinians for the withdrawal from Jericho.

The withdrawal will begin in January from Jericho, as will the redeployment in the West Bank, and be completed in April, under the army's scenario.

In June all the files of the military administration over the West Bank and Gaza will be destroyed.

Magic in Amman

For the first time in Jordan and the Middle East, The Society for Care of Neurological Patients is hosting the famous German magic group Mandrax.

The four-member group has been performing for the past 10 years in Germany and worldwide, their show includes great illusions, mystics and manipulation, as well as general magic.

The group is internationally renowned and has received many awards. They have performed in the world famous Magic Castle in Hollywood.

Mandrax will be performing this (today) Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 29 and 30 at 6.30 p.m. at the Baccalaureate School and on Friday Oct. 1 at 4 p.m. at the Palace of Culture, King Hussein Youth City.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Painting exhibition by artist Fateh Moudarres at the Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "Eastern Dancing — Entertainment in Spare Time" by Sigrid Benemann at Goethe Institute.
- ★ The First International Festival of Fine Arts in Jordan entitled "Colour and Light in the Nabatean Civilisation" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts in Jordan.
- ★ Art exhibition of paintings on Petra by British artist Caroline Dobson at the British Council.

- ★ Iraqi Art Festival at the Alia Art Gallery
- ★ Exhibition of paintings and photographic pictures of old Baghdad by Nadim Mubsin at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Permanent exhibition of 58 artists and "Chair" Exhibition at Darat Al Fann of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh (10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fridays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.) Tel. 643251-2
- ★ Exhibition of Chinese products at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Agricultural Books at the Royal Cultural Centre.

The Amman-based regional office of the Arab American Anti Discrimination Committee expresses its heartfelt condolences to Atallah and Ankiri families over the passing away of

Jamileh Najib Ankiri
mother of colleague Sami Atallah
May God bless her soul

Jordan Times

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MAHMOUD AL KAYED

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Jordan Times advertising department.

Win for democracy

THE DECISION to go ahead with the national elections on time in spite of all concerns about them is a vote of confidence not only in our democratic process but in the people of the country as well. The odds were heavily in favour of delaying the Nov. 8 polls till the last minute, when the prime minister announced that Jordanians would elect their next Parliament as originally planned.

His Majesty the King and senior officials had strongly hinted that postponement was imminent, so it was a pleasant surprise to hear that the final verdict was positive.

Against the debate that was taking place, the resolution of the issue in favour of holding the elections on schedule is tantamount to ushering a new era of participatory democracy in our country. For the decision will no doubt inject new confidence by the people in themselves. This will have at least two positive implications: One political and the other economic. Ever since speculation about shelving the elections was first circulated, the business mood in the country suffered and the political fears and anxieties about the PLO-Israeli accord on interim self-government were reinforced. But the decision not to waver in the face of some real problems and obstacles that stood in the way should prove to be beneficial in both the short and long runs.

Regardless of any and all external reasons for holding and postponing the elections this year, debate and deliberations that took place in Jordan were not only healthy and frank but they also had a happy ending. By overruling the proponents of the delay, the King has sent a clear and loud message that democracy in Jordan is here to stay. The Monarch has also sent a signal that the Kingdom has nothing to fear from the Palestinian-Israeli deal and is confident enough to cope with all eventualities in a sane and sober manner.

Panic has never been the mainstay of Jordanian domestic or external policies, and yesterday's announcement confirms the long-held view that Amman does not take national steps in haste. We live in a country that accepts the challenges head on, and we can only be proud of that.

A major battle for democracy in Jordan has been won.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THERE IS a clear contradiction between current attempts to mend fences between the Palestinians and the Israelis on the one hand and the continued estrangement of the Arab regimes on the other, said Mohammad Subeili, columnist in Al Dustour Tuesday. The writer wondered why no Saudi ambassador resides in Amman at a time when Arab leaders have expressed their desire to transcend the Gulf crisis and its side effects on the Arab Nation. There is no justification for lack of coordination and brotherly cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Jordan now that the doors are wide open in the Middle East region for total reconciliation even with the Israeli enemy, said Subeili. Noting that Saudi Arabia had played a key role in the Gulf war, the writer said it is incumbent upon Riyadh now to play a larger role to contain the adverse effects of that war and reduce the suffering of the people like the Iraqis who have been the main victims of that war. He said that following the Gulf crisis, the Saudi diplomacy is clearly not as active as during the war or before the crisis, something which really concerns observers. The writer said perhaps it is due to Saudi Arabia's lack of communication with Jordan, Yemen, Sudan and Iraq, all countries close to it, that its role is now at its lowest ebb in matters concerning the Arab Nation's interests. He said it is regrettable to see Saudi Arabia failing to take steps aimed at reestablishing solidarity among Arab states, at basing it on foundation stronger than even before. He said that Saudi Arabia should mend fences with Jordan, its northern neighbour, which must remain strong and able to defend the Arab Nation's interests.

A COLUMNIST in Sawt Al Shaah daily Tuesday urged the Jordanian public to show real solidarity, in word and deed, with those among them suffering from diabetes. Support for diabetics can be channelled through the Jordanian Society for the Care of Diabetics which is due to be formally opened by Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday, said Ahmad Dabbas. He said that the opening marks the start of active voluntary programmes aimed at providing the patients with various types of assistance and to spread awareness among the public about ways to prevent the spread of the disease. Specialists who are joining the society in order to provide free of charge service to the diabetics are to be commended for their gesture, especially as this service would benefit the needy patients most, said the writer. He said that despite the lack of accurate information about the number of diabetics in Jordan, there are indications that the figure is very high. Special kinds of food and special medication is needed to deal with this dangerous disease and the society is bound to lose if no prompt measures are taken immediately to spread awareness on ways of avoiding the disease or help the diabetics, said the writer. In a country where society members advocate solidarity, said the writer, help for the diabetics can best reflect genuine solidarity.



Challenges facing the Clinton administration in the fall

By Dr. James Zogby

IN MID-SUMMER, President Clinton emerged victorious from the congressional fight over his budget agreement. The White House made significant compromises to secure passage of the bill, but the final outcome did contain the essential principles to which the president was committed: reductions in the projected federal budget deficit by nearly \$500 million over the next five years, tax increases that will fall most heavily on the wealthiest Americans and maintaining and even increasing essential social programmes.

Despite the slight margin of victory — the changes introduced by the budget were important enough for the Time magazine to herald the bill as "overturning the Reagan era."

Not everyone was satisfied, however. A Democratic critic charged that the president had compromised too much and had not shown enough courage because he had not stood firm and demanded that Congress accept more of his original budget proposal. Mr. Clinton responded angrily, noting that he had shown courage by addressing difficult issues that had been ignored during the past three presidential terms.

This is the dilemma now facing the Clinton administration. The president has a far-reaching and courageous agenda which calls for a major overhaul of almost every area of public policy. But having won the 1992 election with only 43 per cent of the vote and leading a deeply divided Democratic Party, Mr. Clinton lacks the mandate and the automatic vote in Congress to pass his programme without a struggle.

To his credit, however, Bill Clinton has continued to push forward despite this political handicap. At the same time, he has shown a willingness to compromise in order to salvage at least a modest portion of his programme.

After meeting for months, the two most significant challenges the president will lead to Congress will be a wide-ranging proposal to provide comprehensive health care for all Americans and a bill to secure congressional acceptance of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which would create an economic union between the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

1) Health Care

Health care became a defining issue in the 1992 presidential campaign. With 37 million Americans without health insurance and medical costs spiralling out of control, the issue affects the life of every American.

After nearly four months, a presidential Task Force headed by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton presented the White House with a draft proposal which is being refined even now. It has not yet been made public, but the White House has leaked out several parts of the proposal in order to build public support and as trial balloons to test public and political reactions.

The basic outlines of the plan are these: it will guarantee health care coverage to all Americans, place an emphasis on preventive care so as to avoid the high cost of later treatments, seek to slow the growth in health care costs through a combination of regulatory reform and a more rational system of health care delivery and provide a choice of health care programmes to all Americans based on their needs. Mr. Clinton is touting this programme as both necessary in its own right and as a significant step in reducing the federal deficit (of which health care spending is the fastest rising part).

But unlike the budget battle, the White House has made a real effort to secure Republican support for this bill. The proposal is not based on the more "socialist" Canadian model, but on the "managed competition" model, which should hold more appeal for Republicans. And the White House has been actively courting and consulting prominent Republican senators in an effort to win their early support.

The most difficult issue that must be solved before the health care plan can be passed is its cost and how the administration plans to raise the needed revenues. "Sin taxes" (on tobacco and alcohol products) and further cuts in existing Medicare and Medicaid programmes are among the ideas being floated; they are being rather thoroughly criticised. Even if these measures pass, they probably will not be enough to cover all the new spending the plan will require.

A programme as complex and costly as this is bound to provoke intense public and congressional debate. But health care reform is so desperately needed and so central a part of the president's programme that the administration will expend significant political resources to secure its passage.

2) NAFTA
The most difficult obstacle to the passage of the health care reform package, however, is not the bill itself but the fact that it will be before the Congress at the same time as Mr. Clinton will be presenting NAFTA for congressional approval.

And, as if these two battles are not enough, the White House has three additional major programmes to present to Congress: a Crime Bill, National Service and the National Performance Review.

"The president has a far-reaching and courageous agenda which calls for a major overhaul of almost every area of public policy. But having won the 1992 election with only 43 per cent of the vote and leading a deeply divided Democratic Party, Mr. Clinton lacks the mandate and the automatic vote in Congress to pass his programme without a struggle."

NAFTA was negotiated by the Bush administration and during the campaign Mr. Clinton said that he would support it if it were amended by side agreements that would protect American jobs, provide job retraining for workers whose jobs move abroad and address the question of environmental protections.

The administration is now satisfied with the side agreements it has negotiated with Mexico and has brought the plan forward. But opposition to the plan, especially from Democrats, is intense. While Pat Buchanan, Ross Perot and Jesse Jackson — populists on the left and the right — oppose the agreement with charges that it will cost American jobs and cause a rash of U.S. business industry to go to Mexico, weaken environmental protection, etc., the most serious threat to NAFTA is the opposition of organised labour.

Clearly, labour is the most powerful interest group in the Democratic Party. The president is counting on Labour to secure passage of his health care plan, but labour leaders have notified the White House that if they must spend resources fighting NAFTA, they will not have the resources to support health care reform. This is a threat the White House cannot afford to ignore.

Ironically, it is apparent that the major support for NAFTA will come from Republicans who represent business interests that are supporting the bill. In fact, a recent vote count by a Washington newsletter showed that if NAFTA came to a vote now it would receive 177 votes for and 174 votes against in the House, with the rest undecided. This is far short of the 218 votes needed to pass the bill. But the

most disturbing news for the president is that only 70 of the 258 Democrats in the House are supporting NAFTA, while 107 of the 175 Republicans are in support of the measure.

The Democrats in Congress are so divided on NAFTA that while the speaker of the House (the top-ranking Democrat in the House) supports the plan, the majority leader and the majority whip (the number two and three most powerful Democrats) have said that they will not support it. No one can recall a time when any majority leader or "whip" have not supported their own ward. Indeed, if Clinton were to win this bill with Republican votes, while at the same time risking the loss of support from influential members and powerful groups in his own party.

Indeed, this issue has so divided the White House that advisors to the president are split. Those who worked with Bill Clinton during the 1992 campaign want the president to give priority to health care reform and let NAFTA wait. Those advisors who joined the White House staff from the business community want the president to pursue NAFTA as a priority.

So far, the president seems to want to pursue both at the same time. And, as if these two battles are not enough, the White House has three additional major programmes to present to Congress: a Crime Bill, National Service and the National Performance Review.

3) Crime Bill
The Crime Bill, together with the National Performance Review and NAFTA are important to this president since he is determined to define himself as a "New Democrat."

While some have sought to challenge Mr. Clinton's early record as liberal, Mr. Clinton insists that the overall thrust of his programme cannot be defined as either liberal or conservative. The Crime Bill now before Congress, for example, includes a variety of measures that have been called for by both liberals and conservatives. The Brady Bill (named after Mr. Reagan's Press Secretary James Brady who became champion of handgun control after being wounded in the assassination attempt on President Reagan 1981) places new national restrictions on the purchase of handguns, which has been identified as a liberal cause, is a part of the bill.

But the Crime Bill also includes a promise of \$3.6 billion in new spending on crime programmes, with some of the money going to "liberal measures" like drug treatment and some going to "conservative measures", such as putting an additional 100,000 police officers on the streets. Yet another part of the bill, the notion of military style "boot camps" that will provide retraining for young and first-time offenders, has been a favourite programme of conservatives for some years.

4) National service
National service is a cause that has been spearheaded for years by Senator Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts, an archetypal liberal.

The programme itself is a mix of liberal and conservative ideas and has a bipartisan coalition behind it. It presents national service not as an obligation for all citizens (which some conservatives oppose), but as a source of new jobs and job training for young people.

The overall goal of the programme is to enable students to go to college despite rising tuition costs in return for service in some type of national service, such as work in the police force or as a teacher. Although the Congress reduced Mr. Clinton's initial proposal of \$20,000 in tuition aid for two years of service in half (down to \$10,000 for two years service), the programme will eventually enable up to 100,000 young Americans to earn money for college in exchange for national service. This is a programme with strong appeal to both liberals and conservatives.

5) National performance review

The National performance review, headed by Vice President Al Gore, proposes to do what the past five presidents talked about but never did — cut the size of the government, eliminate (or at least severely reduce) waste and streamline government regulations. (For example, while Mr. Reagan made this issue a campaign theme, the size of government actually grew during his administration.)

This is one issue about which there is no partisan disagreement: the U.S. government is too big and it is inefficient. Mr. Gore's plan is divided into four parts, each of which is designed to reverse the stagnating effects of governmental growth of the past thirty years. The White House stressed from the moment of its introduction that the plan is not only a goal in itself, but is a way of restoring people's confidence in the government — something that is central to Mr. Clinton's entire agenda.

First, there will be a series of strictly regulatory reforms, such as reducing some federal regulations and creating more reasonable guidelines for federal procurement of goods and services. Second, it proposes some elements of competition in order to make agencies perform more efficiently without new regulations. Third, it would provide greater avenues for federal workers to improve their own way of doing things without outside approval or interference. Finally, it would target waste in the government, including an extraordinary call for reducing the federal workforce by 252,000 over five years, which would be the first time it has shrunk in size in 17 years. Overall, the plan is designed to save at least \$108 billion over the next five years.

The White House's ambitious early agenda also includes campaign finance reform (currently before Congress), welfare reform (still to be drafted), a proposal to make dramatic cuts in all branches of the military to go along with the major cuts in military bases which Congress approved earlier this year and an important proposal to devote billions of dollars to retraining workers and converting plants to create alternative jobs and new careers for those affected by this streamlining of the military.

Clearly, this president is committed to change. His agenda is far-reaching and the challenges he will pose to Congress this fall are quite demanding. The battles ahead will be intense and will, no doubt, require substantial compromises.

The outcome of this fall's legislative agenda will determine not only the direction of government during the next four years, but also the prospects for the reelection of many members of Congress in 1994, and Mr. Clinton's own chances in 1996.

The writer is president of the Arab American Institute in Washington. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Economics will not be enough; dignity and history are peace fundamentals

By Jerome M Segal

WASHINGTON When moral consensus is a possible, recognition of a moral integrity of the other is a substitute. Parties can recognize in an awareness that each has a point of view through which it is possible for decent people to see and understand the world.

Nothing of this sort has been achieved between Jews and Palestinians. They remain, relatively intact, their own understandings of the conflict and unchanged perceptions each other's conduct.

What is so hard for most Jews to understand is that from the Palestinian point of view the morality of the conflict is relatively simple — the land was theirs; the Jews seeking to escape harms done them by Christian Europe gained the blessing of the ruling imperialist states to come and take from the Palestinians what was theirs. The Palestinians fought back.

On this level, there has been significant change neither in Palestinian thinking nor in Jewish recognition of the fact that it was natural and understandable that Palestinians would see the conflict in those terms.

Rarely, one can hear Palestinian or Arab voices that break with this consensus. King Hassan of Morocco has said that the Jews have always lived in the Middle East and that just as there always was a Jewish quarter in Arab communities, it is fitting that there be a Jewish state within the larger array of Middle Eastern states. And it is not unknown for a Palestinian to say: "We of all people should have welcomed our Jewish cousins back to the land, given what they had suffered." But these are isolated expressions.

On the Israeli side, at least among scholars, there has been over the years a very deep rethinking of the history of the conflict. Certainly the self-serving mythology of "a land without a people, for a people without a land" has been swept away. But only on the far left do Israelis acknowledge that, even if ultimately necessary and justifiable, the basic Zionist enterprise involved an injustice to the indigenous people.

Typically in international relations, peace does not require that adversaries agree on who was right and wrong; nor, if such agreement is not forthcoming, must they share a sense of the moral complexity of their struggle. But the Jewish-Palestinian conflict is rather different.

These two peoples will continue to live intermingled with each other regardless of citizenship. Jerusalem is a city of dual nationality. Palestinian citizens of Israel constitute a significant part of the population, and Jewish settlers may continue to live in the West Bank even when it becomes a Palestinian state.

The basic fact about this conflict and about the peace that may emerge is that the Palestinians have lost their struggle to prevent the taking of a land that they experienced as their own. For the Jewish people, that long struggle has been a great success — the return to the land of ancient ancestors, the attainment of Jewish statehood after nearly 2,000 years of statelessness, the achievement of a prosperous and democratic society. For the Palestinians, the triumphs of the Jewish people have thus far been at their expense.

A great deal of what has always appeared to the outside world as the irrationality of the PLO is perhaps better understood as an effort to bear this asymmetry of outcome and power without loss of dignity. This quest for dignity lies at the heart of the Palestinian demand for independent statehood, and it would be foolish to believe that the conflict has any chance of being ended if it is not forthcoming in the next few years.

"This quest for dignity lies at the heart of the Palestinian demand for independent statehood, and it would be foolish to believe that the conflict has any chance of being ended if it is not forthcoming in the next few years."

But I would argue that something more is needed, some change in the way the victors, the Jewish people, understand what has happened.

There are many voices today saying that is a mistake to reopen the past, and that what is needed is to look forward, to draw the new generation into peace on the basis of prosperity. And certainly economic developments are important. Yet in the end it will not be adequate.

To turn away from history is to turn away from countless loved ones at ancestors who have died at suffered over the decades. Peace cannot be built solely on the basis of pragmatism and self-advantage.

The writer is director of the Jewish Peace Lobby, a research scholar at the University of Maryland Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy and author of *Creating the Palestinian State: A Strategy for Peace*. This article is reprinted from *The Washington Post*.

LETTERS

Oil realities

To the Editor:

In the wake of the Gulf war, the relationship between the producers and consumers of oil has taken a new twist. No more will consumers have to consider themselves mere end-users or simply marketers of oil. They found themselves catapulted on top of the sources of production as in the process they become instrumental in influencing pricing policies of oil. In other words, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) evolved functionally to echo what is workable for consumers and producers alike.

If anything, OPEC's new role tends to herald something akin to a Delphic oracle: whereas the consumers are actually paying for what is basically theirs to use as they desire, it stands to reason to recognise the development of a new dimension of the terms and conditions of the contractual relationship between consumers and producers of oil. This relationship is analogous to the relationship between the proprietors and users of storage facilities — the pioneers being the proprietors of the storage facilities and the consumers being the end-users of such facilities to store their oil.

No more will the spot or future prices of oil be determined by the market and cents but in how much storage is as is) over a period of time.

And short of more wars to come, the morrow is ours to see, if we elect to wait, for the realisation of this oracle.

Ludwig W. Thari,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions on its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Spadework by British monitors may save plants from extinction

By Ben Hirschler
Reuter

LONDON — When it comes to conservation, plants lack the charisma of pandas or whales. Yet tens of thousands of species are on the verge of extinction, often before scientists are able to explore their medicinal or food crop potential.

For the first time, researchers are totting up the scale of the problem.

The World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge, which keeps an eye on wildlife for the United Nations and other bodies, estimates 25,000 plants are under threat of extinction from the planet and another 10,000 could die out in individual countries.

The problem is not confined to tropical rain forests. "The total number of species and therefore the number of threatened species is highest in the tropics," said project leader Kerry Walter, who expects to complete his 1,000-page guide to endangered plants this month.

"But the percentage of endangered species is remarkably similar across the globe, at around 15 per cent of all flora."

Islands are particularly at risk of losing unique species. Madagascar alone has nearly 10,000 plant types — compared with 12,500 for the

whole of Europe — and two-thirds of them are found nowhere else in the world.

The destruction of habitat and the introduction of foreign weeds or animals means all sorts of rare species may vanish before botanists even have a chance to catalogue them. With them will go untold chemical secrets.

"One quarter of all Western prescription drugs contain plant materials and the World Health Organisation estimates up to 50 per cent of the world's population relies on herbal remedies."

Scientists have identified 270,000 different plants — the actual total could easily be 10 to 30 per cent higher — but only a fraction have been screened for possible use in medicine, though their potential is enormous.

One quarter of all western prescription drugs contain plant materials and the World

Health Organisation estimates up to 80 per cent of the world's population relies on herbal remedies.

In the fight to conserve this green treasure trove, botanic gardens are trying to hand together to build a modern Noah's ark for endangered plants.

From a small office in London's Kew Gardens, Peter Wyse Jackson, programme director with Botanic Gardens Conservation International, founded six years ago, leads the drive for a coordinated approach among the world's 1,600 gardens.

The goal is to preserve, multiply and eventually replant rare species in nature.

Some gardens contain species that are extinct in the wild — Kew itself, the world's leading botanic collection, has 13 — but many are there more by luck than design.

Mr. Wyse Jackson's main tool is a database showing the location of endangered plants in gardens.

"We can use the data to coordinate the collections in individual botanic gardens into a kind of worldwide collection," he said.

He hopes to avoid duplication of effort and ensure sufficient examples of the most threatened species are cultivated to preserve a varied gene pool.

On paper, it looks easy. In

practice, the parlous state of many gardens makes it an uphill struggle.

In the science-oriented former Soviet Union, for example, botanic gardens used to thrive. But now their budgets have shrunk and inter-republic cooperation is a thing of the past.

In Croatia, war has taken a heavy toll on one of Europe's oldest gardens, with the destruction of many ancient specimens in Dubrovnik's Trsteno arboretum during the Serb siege in 1991.

In many other countries, botanists have to grapple with near insurmountable problems.

Zaire has the largest area of pristine rain forest outside Brazil. But the director of the botanic garden cannot visit it because there is no money for transport.

In spite of the obstacles, Mr. Wyse Jackson sees encouraging signs that some governments, aware of growing interest from drug companies and plant breeders, are waking up to the economic potential of their teeming plant life.

In May he was in Haiti, advising on the establishment of a botanic garden in one of the few countries without one. With its once near-total forest cover reduced to just one per cent of the land area, Haiti's garden is being created not a moment too soon.

Yanomami massacre — horror in the Amazon rain forest

On July 22, gold miners poaching on the Amazon reservation of the Yanomami Indians attacked a jungle village, killing 13 Yanomami, mostly women and children. The following report reconstructs Brazil's worst Indian massacre in decades with accounts from Yanomami, Indian experts and anthropologists who interviewed 69 survivors.

By Todd Lewan
The Associated Press

HOMOXI, Brazil — The Yanomami men had left after the new moon to help prepare a feast at a nearby village. Their wives and children would go to the eighth moon.

The morning was well along, and many of the women and children were off by the Hwaaximeu River gathering fruit for the holy ceremony. None heard the miners they were feuding with creeping towards their village.

In the dark, smoke-filled communal hut a teenage girl rocked in a hammock with her blind mother. The old man Makosi, two women and two young men also were inside with two adolescent girls and eight children.

At first the noises of crunching boots were far off. The sounds moved slowly nearer, then stopped. One of the women went to the door and peered out at the shrouded gloom of trees and creepers.

The boom of a 20-gauge shotgun echoed through the forest. A hail of rifle bullets from all sides tore through the hut's wattle walls, ripping wood, pottery and flesh.

Machetes drawn, the miners crept into the hut. An old man and three women lay still. The invaders raised the heads and slit the throats.

The blind woman was kicked and beaten to death with the butt of rifles while her daughter stared petrified. Then she and the two other teenage girls were decapitated alive, their breasts cut off.

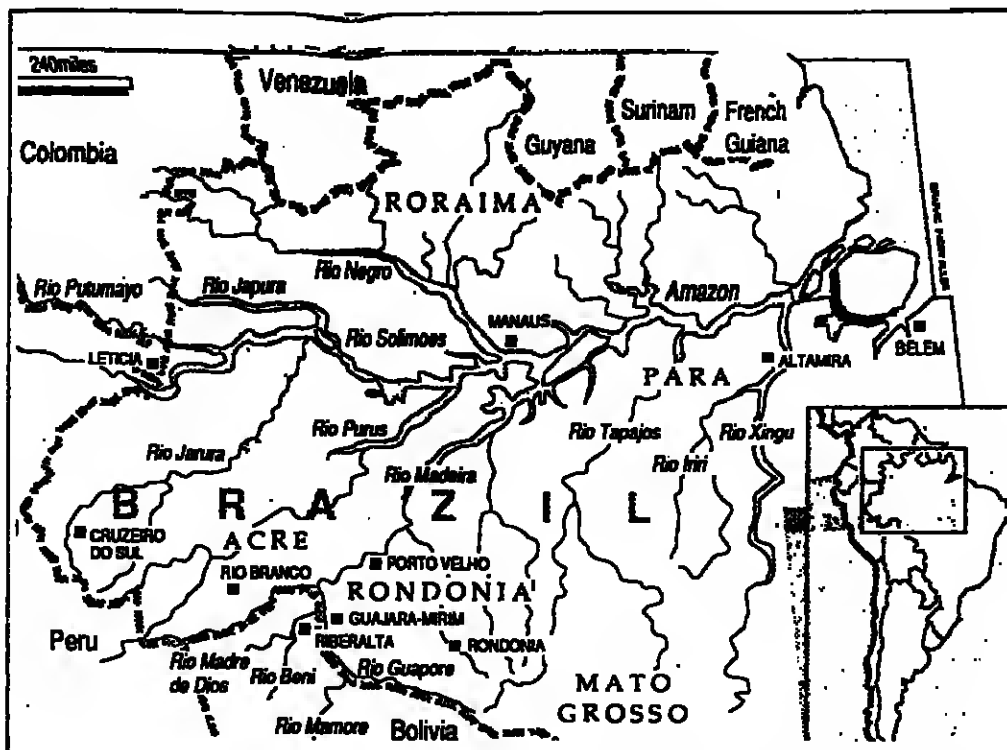
The killers hacked off the heads, limbs and genitals of four boys. They did the same to two baby girls, ages 3 and 1.

In the confusion, two young men, Simo and Reia, about 20, and two girls, 6 and 7, crawled out the back of the hut and ran. Bullets whistled past as they fled into the jungle.

The gunshots and cries of terror carried to the river. Those pickpocket fruit scattered like birds. Two women ran until they reached Makuyutheri village, where the feast was being prepared.

"Noma Oyarema (they died they were thrown away)" the women screamed.

When the two young men and two girls who escaped the slaughter reached Makuyutheri, the elders carved lead pellets out of their backs, jaws and arms with



machetes. The killers quickly slipped away. The smell of gunpowder drifted off. The sounds of frogs and birds came slowly back.

The women collecting fruit returned to the camp first. Body parts lay amid dozens of red shotgun casings, brass rifle shells and shards of bullet-shattered pottery.

In the Yanomami's religious universe, it is imperative to destroy every trace of the dead. A deceased person's spirit is not free to enter the "village above" unless the body is cremated immediately.

The women gathered all of the victims' belongings. They pulled up their crops, scoured the forest for any personal objects — an arrow in a tree, a basket left behind.

The men returned after nightfall. "The women and children were crying," recalled Xapao, a Yanomami man from Homoxi village, a half day's walk away. "The openings in the bodies were large. The insides of their stomachs came out."

When dawn came, the villagers wrapped 12 corpses in a mat of branches tied with vines. Some of the bones were kept. Most were buried with the belongings in five bonfires.

They left the body of a middle-aged woman from Homoxi because none of her family was present for a cremation.

Later, on a holy day, the bones will be ground into a

powder, mixed with a banana paste or soup and eaten by friends or relatives so the dead person's spirit will live within them.

The 69 survivors began a long flight, fearing the miners would return looking for the village's men. They crossed the Orinoco River and headed south over low mountains toward Toototobi village. They had relatives there and it was peaceful. There are no mining camps near Toototobi.

The group took a roundabout route, stopping to rest and tell their story in Thomokotheri, Ayaokether, Worakeuthen and Maamahitheri villages. Those are in the forest that white men call Venezuela.

By day and night they moved, silently without provisions. They avoided trails. The full moon came and went. Finally, they arrived at the Makos village in Toototobi, Brazil.

The Yanomami survivors had walked about 161 kilometres in one month through some of Amazonia's wildest jungle to reach Toototobi, where there is a Brazilian health outpost.

It took days for Bruce Albert, a French anthropologist who has lived more than a dozen years among the Yanomami, to speak to all the survivors and piece together their story.

The Yanomami do not mea-

sure time on a calendar, nor do they measure weight or distances in units. They have no counting system beyond two — anything more numerous is "wahoro," or many.

The Yanomami fear they will become victims of sorcery if they pronounce the names of dead people. Parents are forbidden to speak the birth names of living children, for fear others will have a power over them.

Although he knew it is vulgar for the Yanomami to speak of those who have died, Mr. Albert took the Yanomami aside and questioned them gently about the massacre.

The Indians told him that in early July, miners killed five tribesmen in a clash over food and a rifle. Days later, a group of the fierce warriors avenged them, killing two prospectors with arrows dipped in deadly curare.

They gave the nicknames of 23 Brazilian miners. "The ambush was their revenge," Mr. Albert later wrote in a report to police.

Because government investigators found only one body — the uncremated woman — local Brazilian officials argued that the massacre story was a hoax.

But for the Yanomami, the tale will be passed down from generation to generation. "We will never forget this," said Antonio, chief of Homoxi village, who saw the dead at the massacre site. "Lives taken are paid for with other lives."

Wrongfully convicted prisoner reflects on 18-year time warp

By Paul Majendie
Reuter

LONDON — Wrongfully convicted for an Irish Republican Army (IRA) bombing, Judith Ward spent 150,000 hours in solitary confinement, reflecting on her lost life.

When her conviction was finally quashed, she raised her hands in triumph outside a London court and cried: "Eighteen years, three months and five days. Freedom is brilliant."

Her case was the latest in a

series of successful appeals by people in IRA-linked cases that have shaken public confidence in the police and judiciary.

Seventeen people have been released after serving long sentences when the courts admitted they were not guilty of mainland bombings by the IRA as part of its campaign to end British rule in northern Ireland.

Ms. Ward was just 25 when, arrested in a Liverpool shop doorway in 1974, "After five days of police questioning, she

confessed to planting a bomb which killed 12 people on a British Army bus.

After 18 years in jail and several attempted suicides, she won her appeal and was released in May 1992. Forensic evidence was rejected and her mental instability at the time of her arrest was recognised.

Recalling the time in her autobiography "Ambushed" she says of her arrest and interrogation: "It was nothing, a statue, an unthinking robot dead from the neck up." "I have been asked if I confessed in an effort to please. I haven't a clue. I was just an inert blob being shunted from one place to another."

As a "category A" prisoner — one whose escape would be regarded as dangerous to the police, the public or the security of the state — she was allowed few visits or letters and was subjected to constant cell changes and strip searches.

Time seemed to stand still. "Many people often stay almost the same age as when they came in. You are not really living whilst in prison, you are waiting — frozen, embalmed, enduring. The clock stops. You are in some

kind of time warp. I chalked up 6,696 days."

Ms. Ward pulled herself out of the depression of her early years of captivity.

"When hope goes, you might as well be dead and the number of prison suicides and human vegetables bear witness to what can happen when the spark is extinguished," she writes.

She transcribed children's books for a blind school, ran a computer accounts for the prison, acted in plays, took a university course and sat exams. Now she is rebuilding her life in a London apartment shared with her 18-year-old niece Nicola, born a year after Ms. Ward went to prison. She is developing a career as a writer and campaigns for other victims of wrongful imprisonment.

"I try not to think about it too much because there is no point and it could turn my insides into a bitter knot. But there are times of course when I resent all those lost years. I fiercely regret that my chances of having a marriage and children of my own have been robbed from me."



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The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, Supply Department, until 2:00 p.m. local time Wednesday 20.10.1993. Application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD 20 for each set of tender documents.

The closing date for submitting tenders is 12:00 hours local time, Wednesday, Oct. 27, 1993.

Eng. Sameh Al-Madani
Managing Director

READ THIS

Let January's maiden be
All Garnet gemmed with Constancy.
In fitful February, it's a verity
That the Amethyst denotes Sincerity.
But oh what shall a March maid do?
Wear an Aquamarine to be Brave and True.
The April girl has a brave defence
The Diamond guards her Innocence.
Sweet child of May, you'll taste the caress
Of Emerald's promised Happiness.
Pearls should bring joy to the girls of June,
For youthful Beauty is their special boon.
The Ruby stole a spark from heaven above
To bring the July maiden untold Love.
The August maiden so sweetly coy,
Wears a Peridot, the gem of Joy.
Out of the depths shall Sapphires come,
For September's child to have Wisdom.
October's child in darkness oft may grope,
The tridescent Opal bids it Hope.
Born in November, happy is she
Whom the Topaz teaches Fidelity.
December's child shall live to hie
The Turquoise that ensures Success.

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Political uncertainty punishes sterling

LONDON (R) — Sterling was taking a beating on foreign exchanges Tuesday as the market suffered an attack of jitters over next week's Conservative party annual conference.

The conference, which begins next Tuesday, is seen by the market as a possible watershed for Prime Minister John Major who is on the rack following a series of setbacks and policy controversies, analysts said.

"The Tory Party conference is going to do sterling no favours," said David Brown, chief economist at Tokai Bank.

"It's very apparent there are big political risks within the party and the classic way to solve the disquiet among the Tory rank-and-file is to offer the carrot of a base rate cut. That is going to lie rather heavily on sterling in the coming days," he pointed out.

Around midday the pound was at 2.4550 marks compared with 2.4750 last Friday and a recent peak of 2.5950 marks in late July. Dealers noted heavy selling out of the Middle East.

"As far as I can remember sterling has fallen during every Conservative Party annual conference," said Nick Parsons, head of treasury advisory group at Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Sterling tends to fall at conference time for two reasons. One is disappointment about the lack of fresh economic policy initiatives or because of a sudden setback of some sort. "It's either hopes dashed, or a crisis," Mr. Parsons said.

With Mr. Major under mounting political pressure the more cynical in the market are looking for the Conservatives to cut interest rates to steal the headlines from the opposition Labour Party.

Former prime minister Margaret Thatcher, who was ousted by Mr. Major in November 1990, stirred new controversy by launching a fierce attack on Mr. Major's policies, including his plans to tax domestic fuel.

Mrs. Thatcher also told Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke that he should not raise income taxes in his Nov. 30 budget and should instead make bigger public spending cuts.

The unsettled political background is certainly worrying overseas investors. Domestic players are less concerned about Mr. Major's future, but are more worried about another cut in six per cent British interest rates, analysts said.

IMF chief economist says sharp yen appreciation undesirable

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A sharp appreciation in the yen would work against Japan's economic recovery, which is what the world now needs, the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) chief economist has said.

"What Japan needs and what the world needs from Japan is the beginning of a sustainable and vigorous economic recovery," said Michael Mussa, the IMF's chief economist.

"Further sharp appreciation of the yen would be detrimental to that objective," he said.

The questions of when Japan's recovery will begin and whether additional measures will be needed were areas of uncertainty he said, adding that the IMF was not confident about an imminent rebound.

There are clear signs the recovery will be delayed, he said.

Mr. Mussa hailed the Japanese government's reduction of its discount rate as a helpful step toward recovery.

In contrast, Mr. Mussa said that the United States and other industrialised countries should not be concerned about a further modest appreciation of the dollar.

According to the IMF's World Economic Outlook report, the Japanese economy was expected to shrink 0.1 per cent in 1993 and grow two per cent in 1994.

The IMF's previous estimates were 1.3 per cent and 3.5 per cent growth, respectively.

Limited inflation, estimated at 1.3 per cent in 1993-94, a strong yen, which has appreciated 34.5 per cent in nominal terms since the beginning of the year, and weak activity suggest there is still room for further cutting of the discount rate, the report said.

The IMF recommended supplementary measures to open the domestic market and structural reforms — deregulation, better sharing of the benefits of a strong yen among consumers and producers, reform of land policies to revive residential construction — to help improve Japanese quality of life.

Japan's current balance of payments was projected to remain at a comfortable \$141 billion surplus in 1994. Stronger domestic demand and the effects of the yen's appreciation should lead to a reduction in the surplus.

The budget deficit, excluding social security, was expected to represent two per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 1994, compared to 2.25 per cent in 1993. With social insurance included, a 1.75 per cent surplus of GDP expected in 1994 should bring a balanced budget in 1998, the report said.

European Space Agency plans \$3.4b budget cut

PARIS (R) — A sombre director-general of the European Space Agency (ESA) said Monday the world economic crisis would force ESA to slash spending until the year 2001 by four billion European Currency Units (ECUs) (\$3.4 billion).

Jean-Marie Luton also effectively told reporters that Europe's most ambitious space project, the Hermes manned space shuttle, was dead.

"The economic crisis has led European governments to bring pressure to reduce research spending...and we have had to reevaluate programmes," he said.

Mr. Luton was commenting on a draft budget he will propose to industry and science ministers from ESA's 13 member states, who meet in Paris on Oct. 12-13 to decide future programmes.

Mr. Luton said ESA's draft budget for 1994-2000 would be 18 billion ECUs (\$15.4 billion) instead of 22 billion ECUs (\$18.8 billion) as planned until drastic reductions were ordered by the agency's ministerial council in Spain last November.

The planned 1994 budget was set at below 2.6 billion ECUs (\$2.2 billion) instead of an initial 2.7 billion ECUs (\$2.3 billion), he said.

Mr. Luton clearly signalled

an end to Hermes, meant to rival the U.S. Space Shuttle, in saying "We will not pursue the study of a winged vehicle like Hermes. This is one of our (new) choices."

Mr. Luton said attempts to rescue Hermes by teaming it with parallel Russian projects were unfeasible because of Russia's own financial difficulties.

He said Hermes, already frozen by last year's ministerial council because of projected costs of up to \$9 billion, might be replaced by a more modest crew transport vehicle (CTV).

The CTV, launched aboard a European Ariane rocket, would be a four-person automatic capsule-type device which, unlike Hermes, could only be used once.

A draft diagram of the CTV looked like the Sputnik series the Soviet Union sent into space in the 1960s although Mr. Luton said it would be more advanced and could service future space stations.

"Are we going to turn away from all manned activities in space? I do not think so but we must limit spending for such projects," he said.

"We must give priority to projects and industries where Europe has already shown it could be successful," he said, citing rockets and satellites.

GATT boost to world economy underestimated — study

WASHINGTON (R) — A successful GATT trade deal will add at least \$213 billion to the world economy in a decade, a recent study said, underscoring the importance of resolving disputes blocking an agreement.

"What we are absolutely convinced about now is that this is a very conservative estimate," said Ian Goldin, senior economist with the World Bank and coauthor of the report, released Monday.

The figure is in 1992 dollars, meaning the final gain in 2002 will be far greater than the estimate by the World Bank and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Centre.

A conclusion of the world

trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) has been held up by a fractious farm dispute between the European Community and the United States.

The entire round of talks between 116 nations faces a Dec. 15 deadline.

The new estimate takes into account trade in manufactured goods, agriculture and services

— such as insurance or intellectual property.

The elimination of all trade distortions, far beyond the objectives of GATT, would add \$450 billion in 1992 dollars annually to world income beginning in 2002, Mr. Goldin said.

Some developing countries, such as the sub-Saharan nations, and those which are net

importers of food, may suffer from the trade deal due to higher cereal prices, Mr. Goldin said.

But the loss of \$7 billion to a few countries must be contrasted with the gains of \$85 billion to developing and former Soviet Bloc nations, and \$135 billion to richer industrialised nations, he said.

Some developing countries, such as the sub-Saharan nations, and those which are net

Auditors criticise Germany's Treuhand agency

BONN (R) — Germany's Federal Audit Office has criticised the Treuhand privatisation agency saying it had awarded excessive bonuses to its top executives on the basis of performance standards that were too low.

The office, which acts as a watchdog over how the state spends taxpayers' money, acknowledged that the Treuhand had a difficult task in selling off or trying to salvage thousands of former state-owned East German companies.

But in its annual report to parliament, it said Treuhand pay was often out of line with market conditions.

Singling out a bonus system introduced in 1992, it said: "Low performance criteria led overall to bonus payments which were often too generous measured on the basis of individual basic annual salaries and in comparison with private business."

Treuhand directors with an average annual salary of 296,000 marks (\$181,700) had received bonuses of up to 35 per cent of salary and departmental heads earning 184,000 marks (\$112,900) earned up to 53 per cent extra in bonuses.

The auditors said the Treuhand was too generous in awarding fringe benefits such as rent subsidies and company cars to staff.

The report was likely to be particularly galling for east Germany's growing army of unemployed, many of whom blame the Treuhand for closing down the firms that once employed them.

Arab Gulf states tighten grip on banks to curb laundering

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Wealthy Gulf Arab states are quietly tightening their grip on banks to prevent money laundering by international drug gangs, bankers have said.

The measures run parallel with reforms launched recently to ensure all banks strengthen their financial position to meet capital adequacy standards set by the Bank of International Settlement, the bankers said.

"The central banks in most Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states are increasing interference and supervision of banks to ensure a robust banking sector in terms of both good financial position and absence of any illegal operations, like laundering," a United Arab Emirates (UAE) banker said.

"They are doing this gradually and quietly to ensure the rules will have no impact on the liberal banking system and movement of funds."

The measures include supplying the central bank with regular statements covering operations over the past few years, and checking the identity of clients with large deposits to ensure they do not use shadow names.

Banks were asked to scrutinise complex or unusual financial operations which could be without clear economic or legal objectives and to give priority to dealings with states which enforce laundering laws.

Although no laws have been enacted in the GCC to combat money laundering, judicial authorities have given the central banks a free hand to investigate any suspect financial operations in local and foreign banks.

Officials said GCC states Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman,

Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE were coordinating actions by exchanging information. But they stressed the six members needed a unified law to combat laundering.

"Exchange of information is not enough," a UAE official told AFP. "We need to bridge the gap between our laws if we want to stem the phenomenon."

The measures gained momentum after a crackdown on drug trafficking and laundering in the West. According to police, annual turnover from drug operations is estimated at \$300 billion.

GCC states have also stepped up the fight against narcotics after a dramatic increase in smuggling activities, mostly from Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan.

Interpol reports show around eight tonnes of heroin, hashish and other drugs were seized in the GCC in 1991. The bulk was seized in the UAE given its open economy, poorly guarded coasts and relatively lax laws.

While the UAE has reported a steady increase in such activity, Saudi Arabia, the most conservative Arab state, said trafficking had sharply declined after more than 60 smugglers were beheaded.

No major money laundering operations have been reported in the GCC so far.

It said the operations involved persons and companies in the UAE and drug gangs in Europe and other areas.

"Such activities increase after the summer holidays as those involved fall in the trap of some foreign gangs which tempt them with quick profits," the paper quoted a UAE bank manager as saying.

Bahrain offshore banking assets rise

MANAMA (R) — Total assets of offshore banking units (OBUS) in Bahrain rose 13 per cent in the year to the end of June when they stood at \$68.08 billion, official figures showed.

A Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) quarterly bulletin showed assets of 43 OBUS operating on the island at end-June 1992 stood at \$60.27 billion.

The June 1993 figure also showed a two per cent increase on the quarter from end-March when it stood at \$66.18 billion. There were 43 units operating

in Bahrain by end-June 1993, compared with 75 at the height of the oil boom.

But BMA officials privately view the overall recovery in total assets as more important than the number of banks.

The OBUS assets had peaked at \$72.58 billion at the end of 1989. They declined sharply to as low as \$51 billion in the second quarter of 1991, due to loss of international confidence during the Gulf crisis, but have recovered substantially since.

Assets of commercial banks stood at 2.23 billion dinars (\$5.92 billion) at end-June 1993, slightly down on 2.26 billion (\$6 billion) at end-March 1993.

Private sector deposits with commercial banks climbed to 1.13 billion dinars (\$3 billion) in the first six months of 1993 from 1.12 billion (\$2.98 billion) three months earlier.

Assets of the BMA, Bahrain's central bank, fell to 497.3 million dinars (\$1.32 billion) at end-June 1993 from 512.6 million (\$1.36 billion) at end-March 1993.

Africa's dismal state worrying, but IMF sees gains

WASHINGTON (R) — Senior IMF officials have defended their tough economic policies in Africa and said a handful of nations that had adopted stringent reforms achieved higher growth and rising exports.

Senior officials from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) conceded that much of the continent remains mired in deep poverty, but they dismissed as "simply not true" criticism from international relief agencies that IMF policies were to blame for Africa's dismal state.

Last week relief agency Oxfam/America called IMF and World Bank policies "a complete failure" in the world's poorest region.

Looking at the continent as a whole there are certainly big problems to be addressed, Evangelos Calamitis, IMF deputy director for Africa, said at a news briefing. "But some countries willing to come to grips with their performance are doing better."

Africa's economy expanded by a barely perceptible 1.8 per cent in 1991. But poor African nations that have accepted IMF's tough mix of economic reforms in exchange for finan-

cial assistance enjoyed a faster pace of growth, he argued.

The 19 African countries that adopted the IMF's strict programme between 1986 and 1993 saw growth expand by three per cent to four per cent, up from two per cent before the reforms, the IMF said.

It also said export volume grew by up to seven per cent. Inflation dropped but was still in the double digits.

Mr. Calamitis singled out Benin, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Mauritius as nations that were making progress by adopting the IMF programme, which usually lays out a strict timetable for governments to cut budget deficits, privatise industry, lift trade restrictions and curb inflation.

These strategies are far from popular and have attracted sharp criticism from relief agencies which argue that fiscal restraints are worsening Africa's dire poverty.

"After a decade of structural adjustment policies... Africa remains trapped in a downward spiral of economic and social decline. Hard-won gains in health and education have been reversed, living standards are in decline, poverty increasing," Oxfam said in its report.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 1993
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Richter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Neptune goes direct at mid-day opening the unconscious and strengthening the imagination and our inspirational instincts. Look into current and modern ways of doing business with old accounts.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Whatever you have in mind that involves more operative skill in your everyday routines should be easy for you to handle in just the right manner now.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are anxious to have yourself look more stylish and ala mode and this is a good time to engage in beauty or barber shop treatments for such.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A day to put on your thinking cap to decide just what you can do best that conditions at your residence will be more comfortable and operative.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A new idea strikes you how you can best attend to some regular activities you do in the world that can have intermittent benefits follow.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is certainly a day when you would be sensible to take some time out to find exactly where you do stand in the material realm of your affairs.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Consider your own intimate needs and do what you can to get them as you wish so that you will have physical wellbeing and be more at peace.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This midweek day is good for taking up those duties which you have been putting off and getting them behind you, thus freeing vital incoming hours.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A fine day to contact some friends and acquaintances you have not seen or heard from some time and to renew your association with them.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have duties to do or privileges to get in the world of outside activity so go out in public and you get them easily attended to now.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Much more intensive study into a new or revised course of action that interests you is necessary you can make it work to your satisfaction.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You like to be in the world of people but this is the time to be business like and to get your practical affairs on a more secure foundation.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Much, much conversation with partners and associates will open up a better rapport between the two of you and so away with some pending friction.

THE Daily Crossword by Frank R. Jackson

ACROSS

- 1 Attorney's project
- 2 French cleric
- 3 Cato's language
- 4 Years: Lat.
- 5 Red and Black
- 6 Ophidians
- 7 Plany type
- 8 Narrow opening
- 9 "Turn of the" (Henry James)
- 10 Phil Saver's vehicle
- 11 Highland hat
- 12 Graf —
- 13 O'Brien's game
- 14 Play a needle
- 15 Announcer, of sorts
- 16 Certain violin
- 17 Jungle sound
- 18 Baseball family name
- 19 "Road" star
- 20 Ireland
- 21 Prepare to start again
- 22 Certain muscle
- 23 Country monogram
- 24 Make an attempt
- 25 Sharp pain
- 26 "— the" season.
- 27 Garden annuals
- 28 Part of E.A.P.
- 29 Farm building
- 30 Scar to flee
- 31 Assist
- 32 Make ready for the press
- 33 Feed the lady
- 34 Canoeist outfit
- 35 Sediment
- 36 Singer
- 37 Taunts
- 38 Remot.
- 39 Pot source
- 40 It's clear to me
- 41 Jennings' forte
- 42 Fundamental
- 43 Kind of jacket
- 44 Be silent, in music
- 45 "There's —"
- 46 Strive unch.
- 47 Small warbler
- 48 Make an assessment
- 49 "You are all —" generation" (Stalin)
- 50 Powdery
- 51 Containers
- 52 Singular
- 53 — Berry Adhem
- 54 Bucolic
- 55 Characteristic
- 56 Season's first
- 57 Acrobatic doing
- 58 Prestigious prize
- 59 Mark
- 60 Berry or boss
- 61 Great party
- 62 Choir member
- 63 Chowder item
- 64 Rumpo
- 65 Soft cheese
- 66 Mrs. Chaplin
- 67 Pecans and flowers
- 68 Ladder section

DOWN

- 1 Currency
- 2 Agonal
- 3 Hingup
- 4 Racing shell number
- 5 Take on
- 6 West encirler
- 7 Taurus
- 8 Bar
- 9 Remot.
- 10 Pot source
- 11 It's clear to me
- 12 Jennings' forte
- 13 Fundamental
- 14 Kind of jacket
- 15 Be silent, in music
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- 34 Chowder item
- 35 Rumpo
- 36 Soft cheese
- 37 Mrs. Chaplin
- 38 Pecans and flowers
- 39 Ladder section

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

"We need to call our marriage counselor. You're trying to control me again!"

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Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NAGIT

YOANG

BANACA

CORCUN

Answer here:

Answers (tomorrow):
NAGIT: JUNGLE
YOANG: YOUNG
BANACA: BANANA
CORCUN: CORN

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: What happened when the thermometer fell on a glass of hot drinks?

Peanuts

YOU KNOW WHAT WE SHOULD DO, MARCIE? WE SHOULD SIGN UP FOR RIDING LESSONS.

ON HORSES?

THERE AREN'T ANY ZEBRAS AROUND HERE, MARCIE.

Andy Capp

TEN MINUTES TO GO, PET. CAN YOU LAST OUT?

I CAN'T PROMISE.

THE ONLY CERTAIN THING WHEN YOU'RE HIS AGE — YOU WONDER HOW YOU GOT THERE SO FAST.

Mutt'n'Jeff

WAITER, I GUESS YOU DON'T REMEMBER US! WE CAME IN HERE ABOUT A YEAR AGO!

OH!

YOU SERVED US AN EXCELLENT MEAL, BUT WE COULDN'T AFFORD IT AND YOU KICKED US OUT!

OH, I'M VERY SORRY!

OH, THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT!

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Bosnia's Muslim assembly deals a blow to latest peace plan

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Bosnia's Muslim assembly Tuesday effectively rejected the latest version of the Geneva peace plan, saying they would only accept the proposed partition of the country into ethnic republics if Serbs handed back more of the territory captured in 18 months of war.

The decision came just hours before a meeting of the multi-ethnic Bosnian parliament which has been summoned to give Bosnia's official response to the peace plan drawn up by mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg.

Officials here predicted parliament would vote the same way as the Muslim assembly.

Of the 349 Muslim military and political leaders attending the self-appointed assembly, 218 voted to accept the plan only if predominantly Muslim territories taken by force were handed back, assembly coordinator Alija Isakovic told a news conference.

A first vote on whether to simply accept or reject the peace plan received 53 votes in favour and 78 against, officials said.

If Bosnia accepted the "genocide" going on in a majority of the territories

seized by the Serbs, "the aggressor would be rewarded for his aggression," Mr. Isakovic said.

The full parliament has the final say on whether to accept the plan, but most of its remaining members — many Serbs and Croats having quit the body — were among the Muslim assembly.

Mr. Isakovic said a vote by the parliament late last month accepting the principle of a partition on condition that Bosnian Serbs handed back more territories than originally envisaged had not been met in any great measure.

Asked whether this effectively meant rejection by the assembly of the current peace proposals, Mr. Isakovic said: "You can put it that way."

Tuesday's vote came despite concessions from the Croatian side which gave the proposed landlocked Muslim mini-state an outlet to the Adriatic Sea.

Under the plan, Serbs will get 52 per cent of Bosnia territory, the Croats 18 per cent and the Muslims 30 per cent.

The plan has been accepted in principle by the Bosnian Croats and Serbs.

The session of the enlarged

parliament — to include government ministers, members of the presidency, leading local officials as well as up to 100 of a pre-war total of 240 deputies — was slated for Tuesday afternoon.

Speaking after a lengthy first day of talks in the assembly Monday, Mr. Isakovic said, "the majority of people are hovering between yes and no."

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic did not give the assembly any explicit advice on how to vote Monday when he outlined the main points of the peace plan.

He said points in favour of signing the agreement included the fact that it was now certain that "Europe and the international community would not intervene" on the Muslim side, and would probably not even agree to lift the current arms embargo if the war continued.

The number of refugees is increasing, winter is approaching and there have been warnings about cutting off humanitarian aid, he added.

Muslim-led forces were now having to fight on a "second front", this time against Croats, and they could only wage a defensive war which

could result in the loss of further territory, he said.

Finally, "the situation in Russia is also getting complicated and this could turn world attention away from the plight of Bosnia," he warned.

Arguments against signing the deal focused on the fact that the accord would end Bosnians' dream of preserving a multi-ethnic nation and allow Serbs and Croats to retain much of the territory seized by force.

The assembly vote came amid new divisions within the Bosnian Muslim community.

The leader of the Muslim enclave of Bihać in northwestern Bosnia proclaimed the territory in "autonomous region of Western Bosnia" late Monday in a clear challenge to Mr. Izetbegovic's leadership.

Fikret Abdic, a member of the Bosnian Collective Presidency, said the proposed carve-up of Bosnia was an "historic shame".

Mr. Izetbegovic slammed the move Tuesday as a stab in the back of the Muslim nation and called on the people of Bihać "to energetically defend Bosnia-Herzegovina and stop every attempt to divide the country."



Delegates, officials and guests sit in the General Assembly hall in the United Nations building as they listen to U.S. President Bill Clinton address the 48th opening session (AFP photo)

U.N. asked to put house in order

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Australia Monday presented a blueprint for the overhaul of the U.N. peacekeeping functions and criticised rich nations, presumably the United States, for not paying U.N. bills.

Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, in his address to the General Assembly, said it was an abuse of good management practices and basic common sense to force Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to spend so much of his time

of the exercise and the likely effectiveness in achieving them.

He said that every situation had its own characteristics. "But it is really necessary for decisions on these matters by the Security Council or others to be made on so evidently ad hoc a basis?"

The Security Council, he said, should never embark on an operation "for the sake of being seen to be doing something."

International leaders groping for new policies have proposed reforms to a United Nations they believe cannot cope with the chaos of the post-cold war world.

President Clinton, in his debut address to the General Assembly Monday, urged the United Nations to be more selective in taking on peacekeeping ventures.

"The United Nations simply cannot become engaged in every one of the world's conflicts. If the American people are to say yes to U.N. peacekeeping, the United Nations must know when to say no," he said.

In Somalia, Bosnia and Angola, the U.N. operations are running into increasing trouble, reflecting the sudden upsurge in intractable ventures which the world body is being asked to undertake to record time.

Among industrial nations footing the U.N. bill, Mr. Clinton's criticisms and suggested reforms were well received.

British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd is also expected to call Tuesday for a finite mandate in peacekeeping operations.

But Mr. Clinton's inability to promise full payment of U.S. obligations to the United Nations pleased no one.

The president said the United States would be paying its peacekeeping obligations shortly. But this debt is about \$263 million compared to the \$517 million owed for regular dues for this year and past

years. By the end of September the total U.S. debt will be almost \$1 billion.

Mr. Clinton asked for a reevaluation of U.N. dues to reduce the 25 per cent assessment which Washington must pay. But some allies commented privately that this would not wipe out the current debt, partly responsible for a near-bankrupt U.N.

Dr. Gbali, juggling funds to meet the monthly payroll, has said the world is not certain what role it wants the United Nations to play but expects it to solve its toughest crises.

He politely took issue with Mr. Clinton, telling a lunch: "I hope that supporters and sceptics will understand what is required for success. First, it must be understood that there will be failures as well as successes. The United Nations is not a magic wand."

Nearly every speaker called for some kind of reform of the Security Council and an enlargement of its permanent members — the five World War II victors, the United States, China, Britain, France and Russia as successor to the Soviet Union. But there is no agreement on how this should be done.

Japan's new Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa made it clear that Tokyo expected a permanent seat on the 15-member Council in 1995, the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

And he apologised for the first time to the United Nations, founded on the ashes of the war, for Japanese militarism.

"I wish to state again that Japan continues to feel a sense of remorse over its past actions and that it is firmly resolved to make further contributions to the goals of peace and security," he said.

For several developing nations, the debate seemed far from their own harsh realities.

'Shoot-to-kill' policy in N. Ireland denied

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — A senior British official denied Monday that security forces have a "shoot-to-kill" policy against guerrillas in Northern Ireland as the extradition hearing began for an alleged Irish nationalist guerrilla.

"The government most certainly does not operate and has never operated a 'shoot-to-kill' policy," John Chilcot, permanent undersecretary of state for Britain's Northern Ireland office, said in federal court.

"It would be unlawful," he said in response to a question from Mark Zandies, the assistant U.S. attorney representing the British government.

Britain is seeking to extradite James Smyth, one of 38 prisoners who escaped from Northern Ireland's Maze Prison in 1983, to complete a 20-year sentence for the attempted murder of an off-duty prison guard.

Mr. Chilcot was the first witness called by the prosecution in what is expected to be a month-long hearing.

The British government alleges Mr. Smyth is a member of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), fighting British rule in Northern Ireland. Mr. Smyth, 39, arrested last year after living in San Francisco for eight years under an assumed name, denies that and says he was wrongly convicted in Northern Ireland.

Meanwhile, the IRA exploded a second bomb in Belfast Monday hours after the British government issued a

stern warning to the group accusing it of hypocrisy over a massive car bombing.

The blast Monday evening rocked an industrial estate in South Belfast but no one was hurt. A warning had been given and the area was sealed off and police searched nearby car parks for other possible devices, a police spokesman said.

Northern Ireland Secretary Patrick Mayhew accused the IRA of hypocrisy for detonating a massive car bomb in Belfast Monday morning while offering an olive branch to end more than two decades of guerrilla conflict.

Mr. Mayhew ruled out any peace talks with the Irish Republican Army or its political wing Sinn Féin unless they renounced such violence.

Republican sources broadly confirmed reports in Irish newspapers that Sinn Féin-backed peace proposals being sent to London and Dublin offered an IRA ceasefire in return for Britain surrendering any long-term claim to Northern Ireland.

The IRA has been fighting an "armed struggle" for nearly a quarter of a century against British rule in Northern Ireland.

"This morning's bomb explosion in Belfast reveals, yet again the hypocrisy of the... IRA and its friends in Sinn Féin," Mr. Mayhew said in Belfast after a 300-pound (140 kg) car bomb wrecked city centre buildings.

U.S. general warns North Korea against provocation

SEOUL (AFP) — The United States and North Korea held several working-level contacts in New York recently to resolve the nuclear impasse, a Seoul press report said Tuesday, as a top U.S. general warned the North against any provocative act.

Yoonhap News Agency quoted diplomatic sources in Washington and New York as saying the United States and North Korea, however, failed to narrow their differences over Pyongyang's refusal to allow inspections of its nuclear facilities.

The commander of U.S. and allied forces in South Korea was quoted, meanwhile, as saying Monday that 36,000 U.S. forces in South Korea would "by the end of 1995, be equipped with the best, state-of-the-art, ground, artillery and aviation systems our country used in our victory in the Gulf."

General Gary Luck told a dinner of the Korean American Association and the American Chamber of Commerce, "our kit bag will be full if it comes to a fight."

Gen. Luck was speaking as North Korea has heightened tensions in the region with its refusal this week to accept talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on resuming inspections of its nuclear facilities.

The General Assembly of the IAEA opened Monday in Vienna with North Korea's refusal to allow inspections of its

nuclear sites topping the agenda.

"As long as our suspicions are not met with credible findings and additional inspections of sites, the IAEA cannot rule out that some nuclear material has been diverted," into a bomb-making programme," IAEA chief Hans Blix said.

An IAEA spokesman said the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency had received a letter from Pyongyang blaming the IAEA for scuttling a second round of IAEA-North Korean talks to have taken place from Oct. 5.

In the working-level U.S.-North Korean talks, the U.S. side reiterated that it would not resume high-level talks with the North unless Pyongyang and the IAEA made progress in their talks and the North resumed talks with South Korea that were frozen in January, Yonhap reported.

The North Koreans insisted there could be no preconditions to the high-level talks and again questioned the "fairness and impartiality of the IAEA," Yonhap said. Pyongyang also called for suspension of annual U.S.-South Korean military exercises, the diplomats were quoted as saying.

Unless the North clears up suspicious it is developing a nuclear weapon, and allows IAEA inspections to resume, the IAEA may vote this week to refer the matter to the U.N. Security Council for possible sanctions, officials here and in Vienna have said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Korea PoWs could have gone to USSR

WASHINGTON (R) — Americans taken prisoner during the Korean War might have been transferred to the Soviet Union but this is by no means certain, the State Department said. State Department spokeswoman Sandra McCarty took issue with one news report of the alleged prisoner of war transfer, saying it was based on an analytical Defence Department working paper that had been taken out of context. The Defence Department report, "quoted out of context by the Associated Press, is an analysis of information compiled to date...which leads us to believe that transfers of U.S. PoWs to the USSR could have taken place during the Korean War," Ms. McCarty said. She said the Pentagon's report is a working paper prepared by the office of POW-MIA (Prisoners of War-Missing in Action) Affairs aimed at helping a U.S.-Russian joint commission investigating U.S. prisoners of war and those missing in action.

Cosmonauts make third space walk

MOSCOW (R) — Two Russian cosmonauts went out for their third space walk in 12 days Tuesday, replacing equipment on their orbiting station Mir. ITAR-TASS News Agency said. Vasily Tsibilyev and Alexander Serebrov spent nearly two hours in space, replacing a cassette containing construction materials and a panel of a structure for studying cosmic rays. The two men walked in space on Sept. 16 and again on Sept. 20, spending a total of seven and a half hours outside Mir. They have been in space for 88 days of a mission scheduled to last about six months.

U.S. senator indicted

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Just 16 weeks after her election to the U.S. Senate, Kay Bailey Hutchison was indicted on charges of misconduct during her 2½ years as state treasurer. Mrs. Hutchison, a Republican, was accused along with two aides of using her treasurer office for personal and political use and destroying records as part of a coverup. She denied any wrongdoing and called the charges the product of a politically motivated investigation by Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle, a Democrat. "I will win in the end," the senator said. "I think the citizens of Texas see through this...They see that this is sleazy politics." Mrs. Hutchison became the second U.S. senator under indictment. Sen. Dave Durenberger, a Minnesota Republican, faces federal trial in January on charges he illegally claimed reimbursement from the Senate for a Minneapolis condominium he secretly owned. He announced less than two weeks ago that he wouldn't seek reelection to a fourth term next year.

Clinton sets friendly tone with Hosokawa

NEW YORK (AP) — In a busy day of foreign diplomacy, President Bill Clinton sought to establish an easy relationship with Japan's new prime minister complimenting him as a good politician whose election mandate gives him "more elbow room" to push for change. Mr. Clinton said that Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's government represents "a recent and fresh judgement of the people of Japan about changes in Japanese political and economic life." At a joint press conference with Mr. Hosokawa, Mr. Clinton was asked to compare Japan's new government with the scandal-tainted government of former Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, whose Liberal Democratic Party held a half-century grip on power. "How can I answer that question without getting in trouble in Japan?" Mr. Clinton said jokingly. The two leaders pledged to commit themselves to resolving longstanding trade frictions between the United States and Japan, the world's two economic superpowers.

Guatemala leader calls for referendum

GUATEMALA CITY (R) — Guatemalan President Ramiro De Leon has called for a national plebiscite to try to force all congressmen and top judicial officials to resign. He presented his request to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal in an attempt to break a deadlock which has paralysed the national legislature. "I ask the Supreme Electoral Tribunal to call a popular vote so that Guatemalans make their views known on my decision to ask the Congress deputies and Supreme Court magistrates to resign," Mr. De Leon told the tribunal, which oversees elections here and must decide whether the president's request is within the law. The plebiscite would not force resignations, but would give moral strength to Mr. De Leon in his battle to purge corruption from the legislature and judiciary. He asked that the vote be held as soon as possible.

General who led air raid on Tokyo dies

PEBBLE BEACH, California (R) — General James Doolittle, who led the first U.S. air raid on Tokyo in World War II, has died aged 96, his daughter-in-law said. Gen. Doolittle, who suffered a stroke earlier this month, died in his sleep at his home in Pebble Beach, Priscilla Doolittle said. He became an American war hero after leading a raid by 16 B-25 bombers on Tokyo on April 18, 1942. Although the raid did little damage, it boosted American morale four months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour. Gen. Doolittle was born in Alameda, California, on Dec. 14, 1896 and gained masters and doctorate degrees in aeronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

U.K. Labour leader faces more disunity

BRIGHTON, England (AFP) — Labour leader John Smith's controversial bid to wrest control of his party from the iron grip of Britain's trade unions was in turmoil Tuesday amid a widening rift in the party's top ranks.

Mr. Smith's deputy, Margaret Beckett, ignited a firestorm of speculation when she refused to unequivocally back the so-called "one member, one vote" (OMOV) reform on which Mr. Smith is staking his political future.

Another member of the opposition cabinet, shadow health minister Dawn Primarolo, openly denounced Mr. Smith's plan as "unacceptable," saying, "I think we should maintain our links with the unions."

Senior Labour MPs privately condemned Ms. Beckett for "transparent disloyalty," accusing her support from the powerful Transport and General Workers Union, which bitterly opposes OMOV, as do most of the unions that created the Labour Party 90 years ago.

Mr. Smith has placed his credibility and career on the line in seeking to reform the bloc voting system, which guarantees the unions a 40 per cent voice in party decision-making and 70 per cent in the selection of Labour parliamentarians.

Earlier legislator Tony Benn, doyen of the British left, was dropped from the top committee of the Labour Party, a veteran casualty of the main opposition movement's shift to the centre.

Mr. Benn, a well-born Socialist who renounced a hereditary title and who wants to abolish the monarchy, was ousted from the National Executive Committee on the first day of Labour's week-long annual conference.

Mr. Benn, 68, energy secretary in the 1974-79 Labour Party administration, had been on the powerful committee for 34 years.

Phnom Penh has right to 'wipe out'

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — The Khmer Rouge was no longer a legitimate faction and the new Cambodian government had the right to "wipe out" the guerrillas, Co-Premier Hun Sen said Tuesday.

"From the afternoon of Sept. 24, the Khmer Rouge is an illegal faction," Mr. Hun Sen said, referring to the date when King Norodom Sihanouk promulgated the constitution, re-ascended to the throne and appointed his son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, as the new government's first prime minister with Mr. Hun Sen as second premier.

The Khmer Rouge was a member of the Supreme National Council (SNC), which embodied the sovereignty of Cambodia during the U.N.-supervised transitional period which ended with the approval of the constitution and the formation of a National Assembly and government.

"The SNC and the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia has been completed. So please remember that from now on, if the government launches any military operation, it is their legal right to wipe them out," Mr. Hun Sen said after the inauguration meeting of the 120-member National Assembly.

The Khmer Rouge has said it would like a role in the new government and armed forces, but at the same time claims the government is still under the control of "Vietnamese puppets," the leaders of the Vietnamese-installed Phnom Penh government.

"From today...if (Khmer Rouge nominal leader) Khieu Samphan curses Hun Sen it means that Khieu Samphan curses King Norodom Sihanouk because the king was the one who signed the decree to appoint me," Mr. Hun Sen said.

Mr. Hun Sen and Prince Ranariddh have repeatedly said that they would grant the radical faction an advisory role in the government on the condition that it stops all military activity and opens up its zones of control.

Mr. Hun Sen said the Khmer Rouge could avoid "losing face" by turning over their control zones to King Sihanouk rather than to the government.

He also warned foreign countries not to support the Khmer Rouge now that the government was established in Phnom Penh.

"Any country who dares to have relations with the Khmer Rouge violates the sovereignty of Cambodia," he said, in a veiled reference to Thailand which has defended its relations with the Khmer Rouge by claiming it is a legitimate faction.

Mr. Hun Sen said he was not optimistic about the outcome of King Sihanouk's offer to host "round-table" talks between the government and the Khmer Rouge, scheduled for late October.

"I believe there is a one per cent chance of the talks being successful," he said.

The co-premier also said that if the Khmer Rouge were to agree to the government's terms to join the national community, they would have to publicly declare the whereabouts of their notorious leader Pol Pot.

French smokers cut down but face fruit of temptation

PARIS (R) — The French are tempting smokers, worried about health risks, with exotic and spicy cigarettes. Cutting back and turning to lights? Theo, how about peach-and-apricot or aniseed-flavoured smokes, as a change from heavy tar? These new, fruity temptations, designed to corner a growing market of health-conscious tobacco addicts, will reach customers next month, France's state-owned tobacco maker Seita said. "This is unheard of in the world of Tobacco," Seita said. Philippe Boucher, director of the Anti-Smoking League, greeted the news with a jeer.

"People who want peaches and apricots should buy the fruit. What's the point of smoking such cigarettes?" But with 4.9 mg tar and 0.45 mg nicotine levels, the brands fall into the category of light cigarettes, whose share of the tobacco market rose to 31.4 per cent in 1992 against 29.1 per cent the previous year. This makes French smokers the second biggest buyers of light cigarettes in the European Community after Britain, according to statistics from the Tobacco Information Centre.

The French, long known for their puffing, appear to be changing their habits. Last year they smoked 96.3 billion cigarettes against 97.1 billion in 1991.

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American rows across Atlantic into record books

LONDON (AFP) — A 61-year-old American landed himself in the record books Monday after rowing across the Atlantic in a boat 1.62 metres long. Hugo Vilhen, a retired airline pilot, beached his tiny craft at Falmouth, near the southwestern tip of the country, 104 days after leaving Newfoundland, Canada. His craft was the smallest ever to have made the trip. The previous record was held by a Briton, whose boat was one inch (2.5 centimetres) longer. Mr. Vilhen said he had originally tried to start his journey from U.S. soil, but was prevented by Florida coastguards. "They brought me back when I was 26 miles out. The only solution was to leave from Newfoundland," he said on his arrival.

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Platini All Stars to play Palestinians

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza Strip (AFP) — A Palestinian team will take on a French showbusiness side including former European Player of the Year Michael Platini in Jericho October 8.

Moamer Bsisso, the head of the Gaza Football League, said: "President Yasser Arafat will send a representative to attend the match."

The French side would include other old World Cup players, he added.

The PLO, which is soon to move headquarters to Jericho, is to launch autonomy in the West Bank town and on the Gaza Strip on October 13, a month after the historic deal was signed with Israel.

The Palestinians say they are looking to join the International Football Federation FIFA.

They are members of federations of 10 other sports and last week were made provisional members of the International Olympic Committee.

World Judo Championships

French seek Japan's top spot

HAMILTON, Canada (AFP) — French judo chiefs believe that with a little help from ex-Soviet fighters they can take Japan's spot as judo's top nation at the world championships Thursday.

"We really believe we can now overtake Japan," said French director of coaching Jean-Luc Rouge. "We should win the women's anyway but the break of the Soviet Union will hurt them more than us."

"Their men will have more opponents in their best categories."

Japan won 11 medals, including four men's titles at the 1991 world championships, to France's seven medals and two titles.

Japan were pegged back to 10 medals and only two titles at last year's Olympics in Barcelona while the French maintained their record of seven medals and two titles.

At the European Championships at Athens in May the French walked away with 12 medals, including three men's titles and two women's. Former Soviet fighters won the other five men's titles and he believes they will cancel out the Japanese men here.

"We respect the Japanese but in the past we have tended to follow them blindly," said Rouge, who was light heavyweight world champion in 1975.

"In the last couple of years we have tried to develop our own skills and our results in the last 12 months seem to have improved drastically," he said.

"Japanese judo seems anchored in the past. They

don't question what they are doing," he added.

Team manager Fabien Canu, middleweight world champion in 1987 and 1989, was more reserved in his predictions.

"The gap has narrowed over the last five years but Japan are still number one," he said. "Japan are battling to defend not only their dwindling dominance but also their time-honoured belief in the all-white fighting strip."

The International Judo Federation will vote on a European proposal that opponents should fight in either blue or white to make matches easier to follow and better for television.

All-Japan Judo Federation President Yukimitsu Kano says white symbolises judo's "purity." A similar proposal was voted down 87-50 in 1989.

Japanese team manager Yasuhiro Yamashita hopes to bring home all eight men's titles, compared with four at the last championships.

"Yamashita, 1981 double world champion, said they were 'watching what the former Soviet forces are up to.'"

Heavyweight Naoya Ogawa is seeking an unprecedented fourth straight world title in the men's open category. He lost to Georgia's David Khakhalashvili in the over-95 kilo heavyweight final in Barcelona and three months later the 1.93m 130 kilo giant was floored by Belgian Harry Van Barneveld with leg throw at the Kano Cup in Tokyo.

AC Milan replace Marseille in World Club Cup

ZURICH (R) — Marseille, already kicked out of the European Cup and stripped of their French League title, were replaced by AC Milan in the World Club Cup and European Super Cup Monday.

In a joint meeting of FIFA and their European counterparts UEFA, the disgraced French club had a worldwide ban slapped on them, forcing them out of the two lucrative competitions.

Milan, beaten by Marseille in the European Cup final, will take their place against South American champions Sao Paulo in the intercontinental World Club Cup in Japan and against Parma in the European Super Cup.

Marseille, banned by UEFA from defending the European Cup this season because of their alleged involvement in a bribery scandal, had hoped to play both competitions to earn about 50 million francs (\$8 million) to lessen their losses.

The club's financial manager Alain Larocque said Friday Marseille were "90 million francs (\$15 million) short and may sell one or two players."

FIFA General-Secretary Sepp Blatter said: "FIFA was obliged to apply worldwide any sanctions produced by any of its member associations."

"Thus the three players and the former manager are now suspended from any form of football activity anywhere in the world."

He said the same applied for the club.

The French Football Federation (FFF), under pressure from FIFA to act, stripped Marseille of the league title last week over the affair in which they allegedly bribed Valenciennes' players to lose a league game in May.

The FFF also suspended Marseille's General Secretary Jean-Pierre Bernes and three players — Marseille's Jean-Jacques Eydelie and Valenciennes' Christophe Robert and former Argentine international Jorge Burruchaga.

The sanctions are provisional, pending a French justice ruling on the scandal.

Milan's invitation to replace Marseille was widely expected when FIFA called Monday's meeting to discuss the FFF's rulings and rubber stamp their automatic worldwide ban.

UEFA President Lennart Johansson said Milan replaced Marseille under UEFA regulations as losing European Cup finalists.



Disgraced Olympique Marseille President Bernard Tapie (AFP photo)

Marseille's reputation suffered a fresh blow on Friday night when their fans invaded the pitch near the end of their 3-0 home defeat to Metz and the referee abandoned the game.

The people, including five policemen, were injured and four supporters detained, police said. Marseille now fear suspension from their Velodrome Stadium for at least one match.

Marseille's millionaire owner Bernie Tapie threatened to quit after the pitch invasion, saying: "In these conditions, soccer is no fun anymore. I need to think (it) over."

The latest sanctions could force the hard-up club to sell Croatian Alen Boksic sooner than next season's agreed move to Italy's Lazio, and also unload Portuguese midfielder Paulo Futre.

FIFA had threatened to suspend France from international competition unless sanctions were taken by September 23 after running out of patience with the FFF handling of the affair.

After the FFF acted last Wednesday, FIFA said: "We feel that these decisions have preserved the credibility of

French football as a whole and have thus settled a matter which was of great concern to the world football federation."

There were no sanctions against Valenciennes player Jacques Glassmann, who first made the bribery allegations against Marseille and said he had refused the offer, nor against the two club presidents, Tapie and Michel Coencas.

Meanwhile Marseille boss Tapie said Monday's decision by world soccer authorities to ban the European champions from the World Club Cup and European Super Cup was unfair, but added he would not quit.

The millionaire said it was wrong to punish his club before accusations they bribed league opponents Valenciennes had been proven in a French court.

"It's a lot for accusations that have not been proved," said Tapie after hearing of the new sanctions against Marseille.

"I'm never discouraged," he told French radio. "I feel like shouting because it's unfair... but I will not disappear just because a handful of crooks are trying to do us down."

JPF's international basketball tournament begins today

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Six teams Wednesday begin competition in the international basketball tournament organised by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) on the anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne.

The tournament, held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, comes amid the preparations of the Kingdom's national team for the 17th Asian Basketball Championships due to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, Nov. 12-20.

Officials and coaches at the JBF will have a good opportunity to assess the national team's preparations for the Asian Championships in which over 15 countries will be competing for two berths in the World Basketball Championships.

Iraq's Al Talaba and league champions Al Naft, in addition to Lebanon's Al Hikmah, Russia's Seska Moscow, Bulgaria's Himik and Jordan's national team will be clashing for the title.

Last week the JBF was on the verge of cancelling the tournament because of its relatively high cost of over JD 40,000. However, Coca Cola agreed to sponsor the event as it is a crucial part of the national team's ongoing preparations.

According to JBF Vice-President Samir Janakat, the national team will be following the plan drawn up by the team's Ukrainian coach Alexander Sasha.

"After this tournament, the national team is scheduled to have a training camp in Europe in addition to friendlies with Romanian or Russian teams in Amman," Mr. Janakat told the Jordan Times.

At a press conference at the JBF Tuesday, Sasha said he hoped the national team will

clinch the title, but added that it would not be easy, especially against Seska, the Russian champions. "We will seek to test our defensive capabilities against the stronger teams," he added.

The JBF Monday named the members of the national team as follows: Murad Barakat, Naser Bushnaq, Hilal Barakat, Samir Murqus, Marwan Matouq, Jihad Saliba, Yousef Zaghloul, Muntaser Abulayyeb, Marwan Al Saeedi, Ramez Hammoudeh, Ziyad Al Nabulsi, Mohammad Al Shamali, Kamal Al Helou, Walid Badran and Nadim Nahhas.

The national team had finished eighth in the last Asian Championship in 1991 in Kobe, Japan.

The JBF's next project is to organise the under-19 championship starting Oct. 10. The second round of the men's first division championship will be held after the Asian Championships, while the 1993 season is scheduled to end with the under-22 championships.

SCHEDULE OF MATCHES

Wednesday	Jordan vs Hikmah	5:30 p.m.
29/9/93	Himik vs Talaba	7:30 p.m.
Thursday	Naft vs Himik	5 p.m.
30/9/93	Talaba vs Seska	7 p.m.
Friday	Jordan vs Naft	5 p.m.
1/10/93	Seska vs Hikmah	7 p.m.
Saturday	Talaba vs Hikmah	3 p.m.
2/10/93	Himik vs Jordan	5 p.m.
Sunday	Hikmah vs Himik	5 p.m.
3/10/93	Naft vs Talaba	7 p.m.
Monday	Talaba vs Jordan	5 p.m.
4/10/93	Seska vs Himik	7 p.m.
Tuesday	Hikmah vs Naft	5 p.m.
5/10/93	Jordan vs Seska	7 p.m.

*All matches will be held at the Sports Palace.

Colombian Asprilla thrills Italian fans

ROME (R) — Flamboyant Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla is a breath of fresh air in a soccer world in which the vast majority of players look like they have been assembled on a production line.

Asprilla, who plays for Italian club Parma, is a potent blend of pace, power and flair as he has just demonstrated with a run form which most players can only dream of.

First he played a starring role in Colombia's astounding 5-0 rout of Argentina in a key World Cup qualifier, netting twice.

His return to action with Cup Winners' Cup holders Parma was equally dramatic, the black forward striking two fine goals in the last three minutes to run defeat into victory as the Italians began their defence of their European title against the Swedes of Degerfors.

His golden September continued with a hat-trick in the league game with Torino and he then conjured up another special as Parma held Sampdoria 1-1 last Sunday — each goal followed by the fun-loving Asprilla's trademark celebration cartwheel.

His skills have prompted comparisons with south American greats such as Diego Maradona and even pele.

"Asprilla can take us where the great Diego took Napoli — to the Italian title," said Parma President Giorgio Pedraneschi.

Only 23 years old, Asprilla would seem to have some of the same self-destructive tendencies as Maradona.

He missed Parma's Cup Winners' Cup triumph at

Wembley last May after badly gashing his leg in a mysterious incident back home in Colombia.

He maintained all along that he had trodden on a bottle beside his swimming pool, despite reports that he kicked in the window of a bus during a rowdy night out.

Colombia's World Cup qualifying campaign also had its rocky moments with Asprilla involved in an altercation with photographers at Bogota Airport and briefly walking out on the squad after being dropped.

In Italy, stories abound of the cars he has written off and how the salsa music blasting from the house he shares with his wife and baby son have shaken and stirred sleepy Parma.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& YANNAH HIRSH
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EXPERT PLAY OR SILLY BLUNDER?

Neither vulnerable, North deals.
NORTH
♠ A K 3
♥ K 5 4
♦ A 2
♣ A K 8 5 5
WEST
♠ J 9 8
♥ A 7 2
♦ Q 9 8 7 5
♣ 3 2
EAST
♠ Q 10 9 5 3
♥ K J 6
♦ Q J 10 8 4
SOUTH
♠ 10 8 7 5 4 2
♥ Q J 6
♦ 10 4 3
♣ 7

The bidding:
North East South West
2 NT Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Seven of ♠.
Follow the play of this hand carefully, then decide whether South was a good player or a lunatic.
Note South's jump to four spades on a weak hand. Far from showing strength, a direct jump to game over a two-no-trump opening bid is a shoutout bid. With a good hand, South could have first bid three spades, then corrected three no-trump to four spades.
Declarer won the opening lead with the ace of diamonds, cashed the ace of clubs and ruffed a club. After crossing to the king of spades,

But this was not rubber bridge. The hand was dealt in a major pair championship, and declarer was an American internationalist. What's more, he played the hand correctly! Every pair rated to be in four spades, and making 10 tricks would earn, at best, an average score. If clubs broke 4-3, and that is the percentage split, declarer would, at worst, break even on this line and could end up with one or two overtricks, depending on the lie of the black suits.
Note that declarer cannot draw two rounds of trumps before starting on clubs. If either defender started with three trumps and four clubs, dummy would have no fast entry for the ace of diamonds on the established clubs.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Arafat to visit France, Britain, Germany

AMMAN (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat is to visit France, Germany and Britain during the next two weeks, a PLO official here said Tuesday. The official, declining to be named, said Mr. Arafat would visit the three countries ahead of a session of the 100-member Palestine Central Council to be held at PLO headquarters in Tunis on Oct. 10th. Mr. Arafat earlier this month toured several Asian nations during which he briefed leaders on the Palestinian autonomy agreement with Israel. A planned visit to Greece was postponed. The PLO official said financial assistance to the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho, which are to be given self-rule on October 13th, would be discussed during Mr. Arafat's meetings in the European capitals.

Majlis rejects subcommittee on women

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian parliament rejected Tuesday a proposal to establish a sub-committee to address problems faced by women and families with some deputies invoking Islamic edicts to justify their opposition. The proposal, which was introduced by 60 deputies, including the nine female deputies in the conservative-dominated parliament, was a watered-down version of a similar proposal rejected last year on creating a sub-committee for women. During the debate preceding the vote, Nafiseh, Fayazbakhsh, a female deputy from Tehran, said women were "not asking for anything anti-Islamic." "We are merely trying to institutionalise our rights and make sure they are respected." But the majority of the 260 deputies opposed the creation of an extra sub-committee, insisting that the present ones were enough to address issues related to women. "Women are not large in numbers in the parliament," said one deputy. "So it would be best if the executive and the judiciary branches addressed their problems."

Suspected militant fires at Egyptian officer

CAIRO (AP) — A gunman fired at a police captain and wounded an enlisted policeman and a bystander, apparently the latest of a new wave of Muslim extremist attacks against security forces in southern Egypt. The attack occurred Monday night, the state-owned Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported, the fifth in a week of violence that has killed four people. Victims included two Coptic Christians, one a police officer, and two other members of Egypt's security apparatus. A Muslim militant organisation, Al Gamaa Al Islamiya, claimed responsibility for one of the assaults. The rest, which the government has blamed on Muslim extremists as well, follow a similar pattern of attack and escape. In Monday's incident, a lone gunman shot at Capt. Sayed Ahmad in a police van at Edfu, 830 kilometres south of Cairo. Capt. Ahmad returned the fire and was unhurt, but a trooper in the back of the van and a civilian were wounded. The gunman escaped into a nearby sugar cane field, the news agency said.

Peres says Press rejected invite to Norway talks

NEW YORK (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, an architect of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace pact, said Monday he had invited reporters with him on his trip to Norway, where secret peace talks were held, but was turned down. "You know, when I went to Norway, we invited the press to accompany us and they said, 'what for, where are you going, to the Scandinavians, nothing will happen there,'" he said. "Our television refused to accompany us," Mr. Peres said on the Cable News Network. "So finally we enjoyed the solitude of the negotiations. It helped us so much." The secret Norway talks led up to the signing of the peace pact between Israel and the PLO.

Mandela meets Israeli foreign minister

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — African National Congress (ANC) President Nelson Mandela Monday met Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, accepted an invitation to visit Israel and thanked South African Jews for fighting against apartheid. A statement by Israel's U.N. mission said it was the first time that the ANC president had met an Israeli leader, who extended the invitation. Mr. Mandela accepted with pleasure, it said. The date of the visit was not set. Mr. Mandela congratulated Mr. Peres on the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement on mutual recognition and limited self-government for Palestinians, according to the Israeli statement. He said that the Mideast breakthrough coincides with important progress towards non-racial democracy in South Africa. Mr. Peres said the people of Israel see Mandela as a symbol of courage in the fight for freedom, equality and justice. Mr. Mandela told Peres that many South African Jews have stood with the ANC in the fight to abolish apartheid and praised Jewish lawyers in South Africa who represented members of the ANC.

French Jews split over Mideast peace

PARIS (R) — France's Jewish community, the world's fourth largest, was embroiled in a row Tuesday after accusations that its leaders were only lukewarm in support of last month's Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace agreement. Chief Rabbi Joseph Sitruk issued a rare press statement saying the Jewish community was united and it was "unacceptable to describe its leaders as opposed to peace." Rabbi Sitruk was responding to an article in the weekly news magazine L'Evenement du Jeudi which said the official heads of France's 700,000 Jews "paid only grudging lip service" to the Israel-Palestine agreement. Jewish sources confirmed to Reuters some community leaders had privately criticised Israel's agreement to end its occupation of the Gaza Strip and the Jericho region and questioned the wisdom of dealing with PLO leader Yasser Arafat. L'evenement du Jeudi said support for the accord was wider among Oriental, or Sephardic, Jews born in former French North Africa, while opposition came from a handful of European, or Ashkenazi, Jews who have long dominated the leadership.

Pro-PLO Jerusalem daily to reopen

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A Palestinian newspaper, which shut down two months ago as funding dried up, will start up again in the next few weeks, the editor told AFP Tuesday. "Al Fajr newspaper will come out within the next three weeks," said Hanna Siniara, but the exact date still had to be decided. The 22-year-old daily which had 38 staffers in East Jerusalem closed down on July 23 as sales plummeted from a high of 22,000 copies a day to about 1,000. Palestinian sources said that Al Fajr, meaning dawn, which is owned by wealthy Palestinian-American businessman Paul Ajlouni, used to receive nearly \$60,000 a month in Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) subsidies. But Mr. Siniara would not say where the money was coming from for the relaunch now the PLO autonomy deal is set to start in the Gaza Strip and Jericho on Oct. 13. "Other Palestinian newspapers which had to shut down because of financial problems will also reopen soon," he added. The Al Shaab daily, also from East Jerusalem, went out of circulation in May as the Palestinian financial crisis deepened. That had left just two Palestinian dailies in operation here, Al Quds and Al Nahar.

South Korean minister visits Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The first South Korean minister to visit Israel arrived Tuesday, 30 years after the two countries opened diplomatic relations. Officials said. Science and Technology Minister Kim Si-Joong was due to sign a science and technology agreement with his Israeli counterpart Shulamit Aloni later Tuesday. Israel hopes the autonomy agreement with the Palestinians will pave the way for Korea to deal with the Jewish state and boost trade.

Clinton signals shift on Somalia

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton said Tuesday he wants a political strategy "that puts the affairs of Somalia back in the hands of Somalis" and gives the United States and other nations a fixed date to get out.

The remarks signal the administration's shift away from the goal of capturing Somalia's warlord Mohammed Farah Aideed, stressing instead its effort to isolate him and create a political structure without him.

"The enforcement strategy has not changed, but what I wanted to emphasise at the U.N. yesterday was that there has to be a political strategy that puts the affairs of Somalia back into the hands of Somalis, that gives every country, not just the United States... a sense that they are rotating in and out," Mr. Clinton said.

In a photo session with Democratic congressional leaders one day after addressing the United Nations, Mr. Clinton said nations involved in peacekeeping need a "fixed date for their ultimate disengagement in Somalia because there are so many other peacekeeping operations in the

world that have to be considered."

The New York Times reported Tuesday that the United States has moved away from its goal of capturing Gen. Aideed. Without confirming the report, White House spokeswoman Dee Myers signalled a less aggressive approach, saying, "should the opportunity present itself, certainly he would be arrested."

Facing growing criticism from Congress after three American soldiers were killed on Saturday, the administration is trying to change the view that the United States is a combatant in the fighting.

"I have tried to raise the visibility of the urgency of getting the political track back on pace because in the end, every humanitarian mission has to have a date certain when it's over and you have to, in the end, turn the affairs of the country back over to the people that live there," Mr. Clinton said.

"We were not asked to go to Somalia to establish a protectorate or a trust relationship or to run the country, that's not what we went for," he said. The U.N. envoy in Mogadishu said meanwhile the

world body may take a new initiative to end its conflict with Gen. Aideed and bring his clan into the political process.

"What will happen now is that the U.N. will make an attempt to restart the political process, to grant some sort of reprieve, to try to get the Hahr Gedir to come back to the negotiating table and to engage in a ceasefire," Ambassador Robert Gossende told AFP.

U.N. forces in Somalia have declared the clan leader, Gen. Aideed, a wanted man with a price on his head since the June 5 massacre of 24 Pakistani U.N. peacekeeping troops, killed on his Somali National Alliance (SNA).

But the ambassador stressed that Gen. Aideed "has to agree" to a ceasefire, along with the SNA. More than 50 U.N. troops and hundreds of Somalis have lost their lives in clashes in Gen. Aideed's stronghold in the south of the Somali capital, where U.S. troops last week captured one of his top aides.

"I think there is a chance," Mr. Gossende said. "They (the Hahr Gedir) are enormously concerned about their role in Somalia. They are enormously concerned that this guy

(Aideed) is leading them to yet another disaster and that they somehow will be excluded from any central role in Somali politics."

"And they don't want to fight their way out," he added. Officials in the U.N. operation in Somalia, UNOSOM II, had been in contact with members of the clan, Mr. Gossende said.

"Security (in Mogadishu) will come back once Hahr Gedir are back in the political process," he said.

The international community should be prepared to negotiate with Gen. Aideed if he renounces violence, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said Monday.

He also said that despite the very difficult problems faced by the U.S.-led peacekeeping force in Somalia, the international community cannot pull out until an acceptable political solution to Somalia's civil strife is devised.

"I think it's impossible to send troops to such a difficult U.N. intervention and then to say goodbye," he told reporters in Washington. "We have to

find a political solution before withdrawing all U.N. troops."

Mr. Juppe agreed with critics who say the Somalia operation's mission has not been well-defined.

"I don't know the solution... it's necessary to have all the parties around the table... we must look for reconciliation. I'm not sure the idea of killing Gen. Aideed... is (one) helps solve the problem," he said.

Pressed on whether Gen. Aideed should be brought into negotiations, Mr. Juppe said: "I think that all political sides in Somalia, provided they accept peace and discussion and not violence and terrorism, should be invited to discuss the future of Somalia."

France has announced plans to withdraw its 1,100 peacekeepers from Somalia by January.

"We have 10,000 men abroad (in Cambodia and Bosnia as well as Somalia) and it's too many for a country like France," he said.

Even if the Somalia peacekeeping mission were redefined, France would still plan to withdraw its troops, he added.

Ministry says Ahali journalist's detention is judiciary's affair

By Sana Attiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Information Tuesday refused to interfere in any way on behalf of a Jordanian journalist who was detained last Sunday by the military prosecution on charges of slandering the State Security Court.

Minister of Information Marwan Abu Nowar told representatives from different local newspapers that he, as a member of the executive branch, would not intervene with the judicial branch.

"Constitutionally, I cannot interfere with the judiciary and the courts," Dr. Abu Nowar said from his office at the ministry, and "advised" the journalists to do the same.

The minister was responding to demands made by journalists that Dr. Abu Nowar and the ministry seek the release of detained reporter, Ramadan Rawashdeh, on bail, refer his case to the civil court, and take a clear position "to protect freedom of press."

Mr. Rawashdeh, a reporter from Al Ahali weekly, was arrested in front of the State Security Court for allegedly slandering the court during his coverage of a trial of 10 people accused of plotting to kill His Majesty King Hussein.

More than two dozen journalists gathered in front of the Ministry of Information on Tuesday to express solidarity with and protest against their colleague's detention.

Around 15 relatives of the defendants in the assassination plot also took part in the sit-in, as police and plainclothes security men looked on.

Women relatives of the defendants who were banned from attending the trial at the State Security Court lined the sidewalk in front of the ministry carrying placards reading: "We demand the ministry's intervention in the release of Ramadan Rawashdeh," and "the families of the Muta detainees express solidarity with Ramadan Rawashdeh." Five of the defendants in the Muta University case are students.

During the sometimes heated hour-long debate, the ministry officials and journalists could not agree on whether the arrest of Mr. Rawashdeh

was a judicial issue or an issue of the press. While the journalists tried to stress they were concerned with protection for the press against arrest, the minister insisted it was a purely legal matter.

The journalists told the minister that the arrest of Mr. Rawashdeh "posed a dangerous precedent to freedom of expression and democracy."

"The case of our colleague has nothing to do with the judiciary," said Jamil Nimri, chief editor of Al Ahali. "This is a clear case of freedom of press and the need for the protection of journalists."

Mr. Nimri told the ministry officials that as long as Mr. Rawashdeh remained imprisoned, journalists will continue to peacefully protest the move.

Dr. Abu Nowar repeatedly warned the journalists, particularly Mr. Nimri, from "threatening the democratic process and freedom of press enjoyed in the Kingdom."

But the minister assured the members of the press that the military attorney-general had promised to refer Mr. Rawashdeh's case to a civil court. He said that he had contacted the attorney-general and the minister of justice to "make sure no injustice is done to your colleague, and none is done against him."

The military prosecutor, Major Mohammad Hijazi, has told the Jordan Times that Mr. Rawashdeh's case will be referred to the civil court as soon as he questioned Mr. Nimri.

Maj. Hijazi Monday charged Mr. Rawashdeh with "slandering the State Security Court, publishing news (of the trial) in a manner that affects the judges, witnesses and public opinion, and violating article 42 of the Press and Publications Law which prohibits printing the transcripts of an ongoing security trial."

Mr. Rawashdeh, whose newspaper belongs to the left-wing Jordan People's Democratic Party (Hashd), was detained at the General Intelligence Department (GID) for two months before the democratisation process began in November 1989. But his current detention at Juweidh prison is an unprecedented measure against journalists by the State Security Court since

democratisation was launched in the Kingdom.

Mr. Nimri was sentenced for three years by the military court in 1985 for belonging to Hashd, which was banned at the time. But the party is now licensed along with Al Ahali weekly. Mr. Nimri served his complete sentence.

Mr. Nimri told Dr. Abu Nowar Tuesday that his paper had not published the transcripts of the trial as other local papers had done. The court had ordered journalists not to write the transcripts of the hearings.

Jamil Shawaheen, chief editor of Al Masara weekly of the left-wing Progressive Democratic Party, said in the meeting that the ministry was the concerned authority to deal with issues relating to the press and its members, not the military court.

"We all agree that we should not interfere with court trials, but this is a case of a violation of press freedoms," said Mr. Shawaheen. "We cannot accept the detention of a journalist in a democratic state, and such a move only serves the enemies of democracy." He added that if Mr. Rawashdeh had violated a press law, then he should have been referred to a civil court.

Dr. Abu Nowar insisted that the case was a legal matter, and advised Al Ahali to let the lawyers deal with the case. "This state is run by the rule of law, and democracies have laws," the minister stressed.

Meanwhile, Maj. Hijazi told the Jordan Times that he received a letter from the Jordan Press Association (JPA) saying that Mr. Rawashdeh was not a "licensed" journalist — a member of the association. He said that he received the letter after he sent a similar letter to the JPA "informing them that a journalist was detained."

JPA President, Suleiman Qudah denied that the association received a letter, but was asked to send the prosecution a letter that Mr. Rawashdeh was not a member of the JPA, which was sent.

Mr. Qudah refused to comment on Mr. Rawashdeh's case, except to say that the JPA was "working in our own way to solve the issue."

OIC to urge Islamic rule over Jerusalem

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The Palestine Committee of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) will call for efforts to implement U.N. resolutions opposing Israeli occupation and will stress Jerusalem must be brought under Palestinian and Islamic sovereignty, committee sources said.

They said these were among recommendations by the six-member committee, which met privately at the United Nations Monday to prepare a report for a ministerial meeting Wednesday of the 51-member OIC.

Other recommendations, to be followed up in all U.N. bodies, include a call for an international programme of economic, cultural and social development for the West Bank and Gaza Strip, due for Palestinian self-rule under an accord signed recently by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Regarding Jerusalem, the committee will propose that the OIC "reiterate that Al Quds, and what it stands for nationally and religiously, remains to be a major cause for all Islamic states which can neither be skipped nor overlooked," and that the organisation "underline the necessity to

bring it back to Palestinian and Islamic sovereignty."

The committee report will also urge continued backing for the PLO in the next phase of Middle East peace negotiations "so as to consolidate the Palestinian authority over all the occupied Palestinian territories including Al Quds Al Sharif."

Under the recently concluded accord for Palestinian self-rule, the question of Jerusalem was deferred until negotiations on the final status of the territories, in two years' time. But Israel has said it will not alter its position that the city must remain its "undivided capital."

The OIC committee on Palestine consists of Guinea, Malaysia, Pakistan, PLO, Senegal and the secretary-general of the OIC, Hamid Al Ghabid.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Monday that the world was beginning to get used to the idea of Israel's "sovereignty over Jerusalem."

"The Arabs have even spoken of the need to differentiate between religious freedom in Jerusalem and the city's political status," Mr. Rabin said on Israel radio.

Majority of U.S. Jews supports creation of Palestinian state

AMMAN (J.T.) — Fifty-seven per cent of American Jews favour the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, according to a survey whose results were released this week.

An overwhelming majority of American Jews support both the mutual recognition by Israel and the PLO and the autonomy agreement, according to the survey released by the American Jewish Committee (AJC) in New York.

A plurality, however, believe the PLO cannot be trusted "to honour its agreements and refrain from terrorist activity against Israel."

Ninety per cent of American Jews view mutual recognition as a "positive development from Israel's point of view." Only seven per cent view it as a negative development, while three per cent "not sure."

The results of this study indicate that American Jews are strongly supportive of the Israeli government's approach to the peace negotiations, including the mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO," said David Harris, AJC executive vice president in a news release.

"At the same time, however, there remains a significant level of distrust of the PLO among American Jews. These results mirror those found within the Israeli community."

Asked whether they are for or against the Gaza/Jericho first plan, 74 per cent of U.S. Jews said "for," 13 per cent answered "against," and 13 per cent were uncertain.

Sixty-nine per cent of U.S. Jews support the Palestinian autonomy plan as it applies to Gaza and 63 per cent as it applies to Jericho. The per-

centage drops to 43 when asked about applying it to "other areas in the West Bank at a later stage."

The study conducted by Market Facts, has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points. The AJC said a representative national sample of 1,009 adult American Jews were interviewed by telephone between Sept. 20 and 26.

The plan for Palestinian autonomy "increases the chance for peace with the Arabs," according to 73 per cent of the people surveyed. Seventeen per cent said it "increases the possibility of another war."

Asked whether "given the current situation," they favour the establishment of a Palestinian state, 57 per cent said "favour," while 30 per cent were opposed. The rest were unsure.

The poll showed a significant number of those polled do not believe the PLO can be trusted to honour its agreements and refrain from terrorist activity. Forty-two per cent of U.S. Jews believed the PLO would be unreliable on this issue, while 34 per cent said the PLO can be trusted.

Asked how much of the Golan Heights Israel should give up to reach a peace agreement with Syria, 27 per cent said "none of it," while 30 per cent said "only a small part of it." Twenty-nine per cent favoured giving up "some of it," five per cent "most of it," and two per cent said to give it all up.

Sixty-two per cent said not to compromise on Jerusalem as a united city under Israeli jurisdiction, while 30 per cent voted for a compromise.

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Deng biography becomes China bestseller

BEIJING (R) — My Father Deng Xiaoping, a biography of China's paramount ruler written by his daughter, topped the bestseller list at the recently concluded Peking Book Fair, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The book, which has been serialised in major newspapers, has been heavily promoted by the official media. Other best sellers at the fair were The Diary Of Wang Dongxing, a former senior Communist Party member, and Bailuyuan, the history of two famous families in northwestern Shaanxi province. Xinhua said late Monday. Wild Swans, a personal account of life in modern China that currently figures on Western bestseller lists, is not publicly available in China. The 672-page Deng biography is being marketed as an intimate look at the family life of the 89-year-old patriarch, whose only official position is "most honorary president" of the Chinese Bridge Association.

Yeltsin father was also a rebel

MOSCOW (R) — A researcher has found evidence that President Boris Yeltsin's father and uncle served a three-year labour camp sentence during Josef Stalin's 1930s terror. ITAR-TASS News Agency reported Monday. The report said a two-volume file on the case was found by Professor Alexei Litvin in the archives of the KGB security police in Kazan, now the capital of the Republic of Tatarstan in Central Russia. Mr. Yeltsin in his 1990 autobiography referred in passing to his father Nikolai Yeltsin having suffered under Stalin but gave no details and made clear he was far closer to his mother. He also described brutal beatings he received as a boy from his father, a former peasant who worked as a migrant labourer on construction sites. According to Prof. Litvin, the secret police file showed that Nikolai and his brother Andrian were arrested in 1934, when Mr. Yeltsin was three years old. They were sentenced by a Stalinist "troika" or summary tribunal to three years in a labour camp for complaining about the canteen food at the Kazan construction site where they had been working for a year and a half. They and four fellow-workers were also suspected of agitating against the sale of state bonds to finance Stalin's industrialisation drive, and complaining about help given to workers who had fled from a 1934 right-wing coup in Austria. According to the files Nikolai Yeltsin and his brother refused to collaborate as informers with the secret police, unlike the other four accused. No proof of their guilt was found.

Prince Charles to visit N. Zealand

WELLINGTON (AFP) — Britain's Prince Charles is to make a short visit to New Zealand in February next year, Prime Minister Jim Bolger said Tuesday. He said the visit, likely to be for four or five days, would follow a visit to Australia. The prince was last in New Zealand in 1983. A spokeswoman for the prime minister said he would be here for Waitangi Day, New Zealand's National Day, but it was not yet known whether he would attend the celebrations. In 1990 during the 150th anniversary of the Treaty of Waitangi signing the prince's mother, Queen Elizabeth II, attended and was hit by a wet teeshirt thrown by a protester.

Dutch women go on offensive against no-women party

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Dutch lawmakers and women's groups went on the offensive against an ultra-religious Christian party that banned new women members. "It's unbelievable, absolutely out of place in our time," said Mieke van Den Burg, women's affairs spokeswoman for the Labour Party. Reformed Political Party delegates at a weekend meeting in the Dutch town of Putten voted by a 3-1 ratio to enforce their interpretation of the Bible as proscribing female participation in politics. But the party, whose 26,000 members adhere to the Dutch Reformed Church's fundamentalist wing, said the 20 women over in their midst could stay. Ms. Van Den Burg said her party will call on Justice Minister Ernst Hirsch-Ballin Tuesday to take legal action against the party on the grounds that it violated Article 1 of the Dutch constitution, which bans discrimination. The no-women vote has incensed women's groups.

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